Le Cirque de Karakuri

からくりサーカス

11

藤田和日郎
KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

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S comics

からくりサーカス

Le Cirque de Karakuri

11

藤田和日郎

The Story So Far

His memory gone, Chinese martial artist Katou Narumi was staying in Paris.

Narumi, having decided to fight the Automata alongside Guy and Lucille, is on a journey to find the whereabouts of the key to this battle, the Soft Stone.

★

And so, they clashed with Ap'tcha and her cohorts, all surrounding Princess Eli, who was the most likely to have the Stone.

While the Stone wasn't inside Eli's body, the three of them risked their lives to guard the princess when their ballroom was set ablaze, and stopped Ap'tcha's conspiracy to take Eli's place.

Meanwhile, not knowing Narumi is still alive, Saiga Masaru and Shirogane live out their days peacefully as members of the Nakamachi Circus.

★

Ho, but what is this suspicious shadow now?

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■薄田和日郎■

サーカス～ナイフ使いのヴィルマ

第1幕 開幕ベル

Circus-Knife-Wielding Vilma
Act 1 The Curtain Rises

Afflicted with the Zonapha Syndrome, Chinese martial artist Katou Narumi woke up in France and became embroiled in the battle between Automata and the Automata-destroying "Shirogane".

In the 18th century.

This war began long ago...

The Soft Stone.

And what the two sides pursue that will tip the balance of power...

One the other, the Shirogane, immortals who fight by manipulating marionettes to avenge the destruction of their village by Automata.

On one side, the Automata, brought to life by alchemy.

Residents of the village that was destroyed by Automata drank Aqua Vitae and became Shirogane.

The name of this elixir is "Aqua Vitae".

Using alchemy, this special stone is the base for miracle elixir which will cure any human ill and can change Automata into human beings.

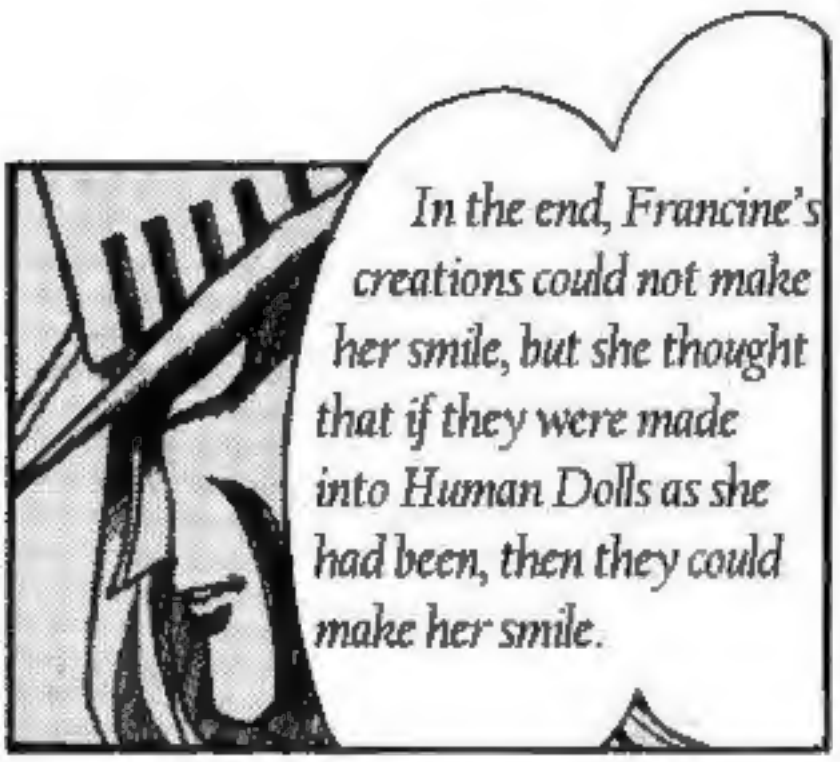
Now, the Automata's leader is Francine...

She is the sole "Human Doll" made by drinking Aqua Vitae.

Narumi's life was also saved by this elixir, making him a Shirogane, and he's begun pursing the Automata.

And this is that she cannot smile.

Only one thing differentiates her from human beings...


In the end, Francine's creations could not make her smile, but she thought that if they were made into Human Dolls as she had been, then they could make her smile.

Lamenting this, she used her skills to create the Automata, who were to make her smile.

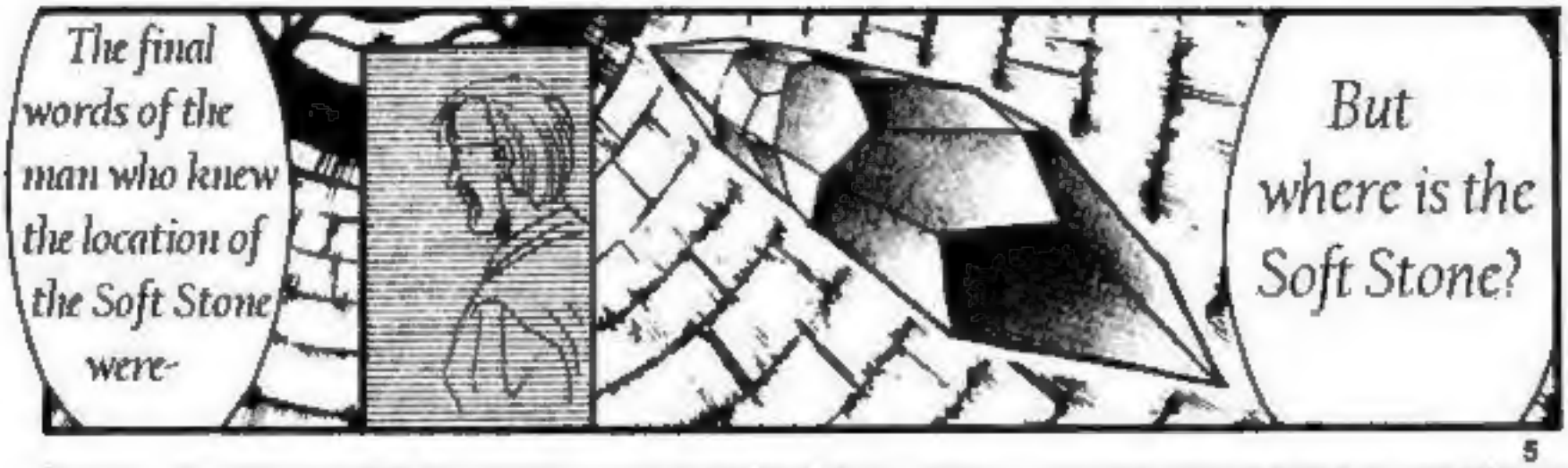
to become human.
to make Aqua Vitae,
To find the Soft Stone,
Since then, they have marched the world,

Spreading terror, the basis of their life force the blood they suck from humans...
Here and there they go, spreading Zonapha Syndrome,

Taking all unaware, they have come to be called the "Midnight Circus".

Their goal is the destruction of the Midnight Circus...

And to find the Soft Stone before the seeking Automata find it!



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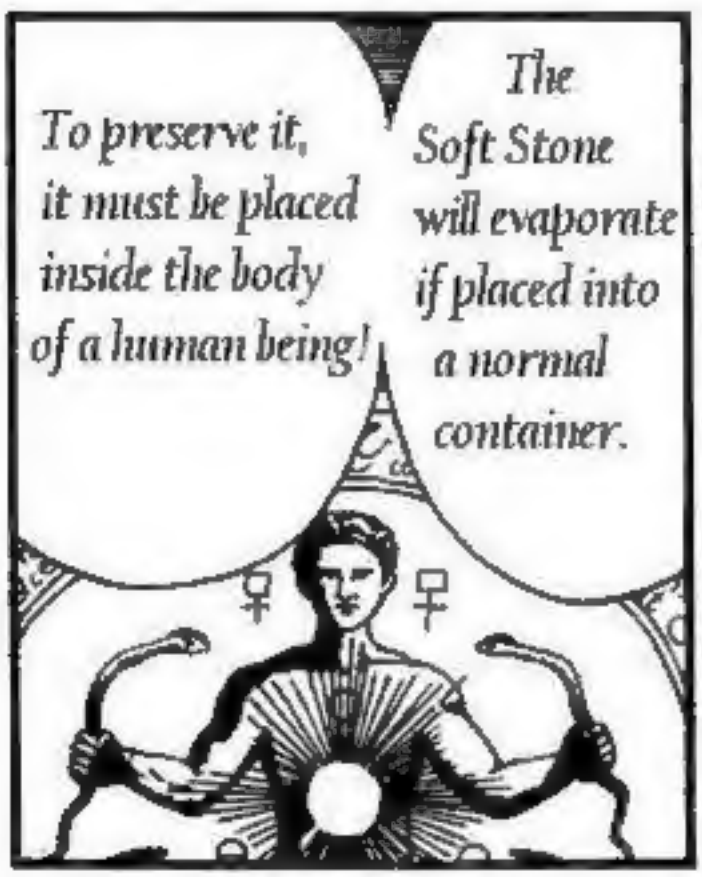

To preserve it, it must be placed inside the body of a human being!
The Soft Stone will evaporate if placed into a normal container.

9

Still,

where is the Soft Stone, sought by Automata and shirogane alike?

But now, for a while, let us change our protagonist to Saiga Masaru.

Well then,

Narumi and his friends' escapades have charmed,

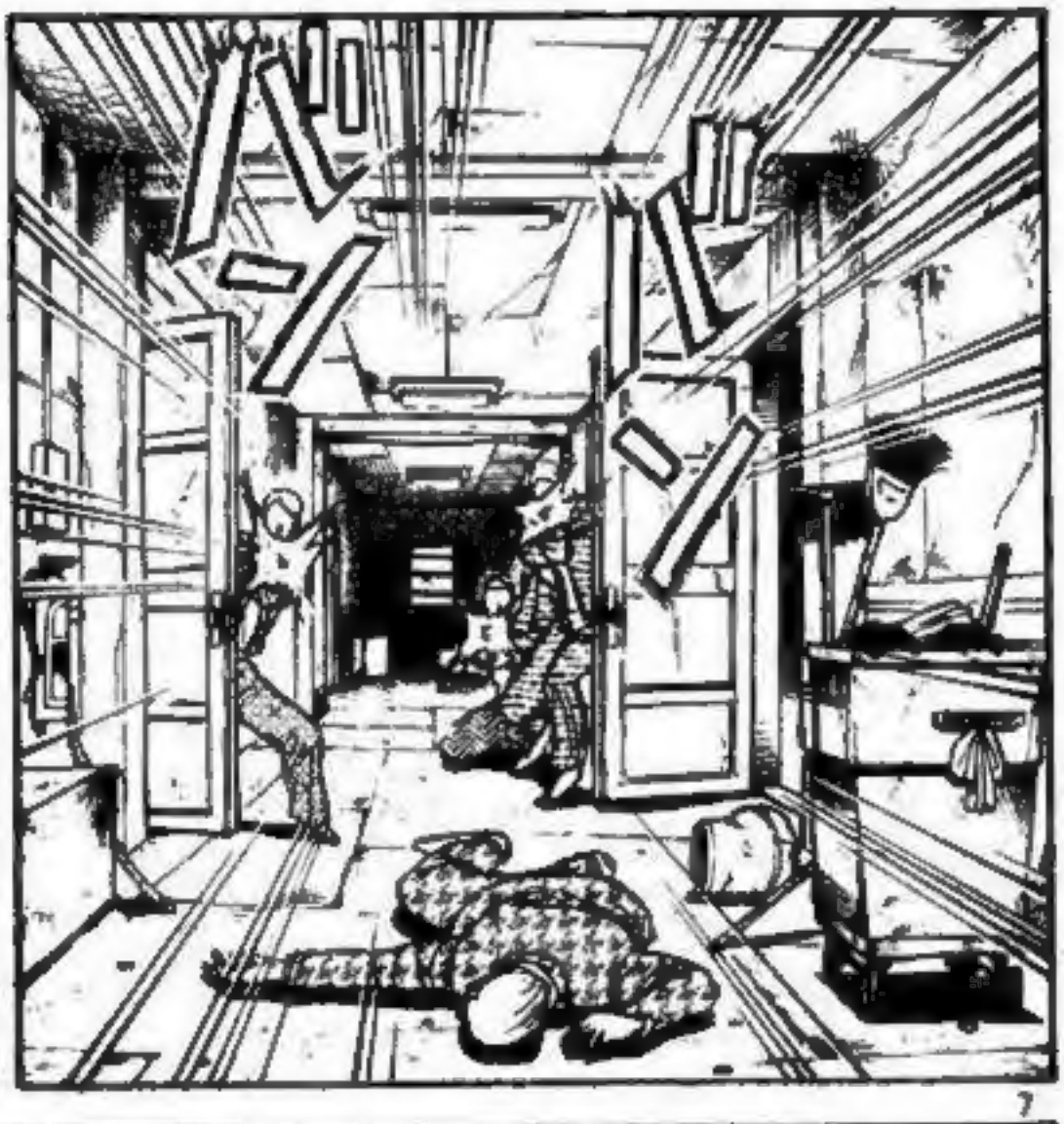
Forgive my long-winded digression.
Let us begin the play, the "Circus" of "Karakuri Circus"

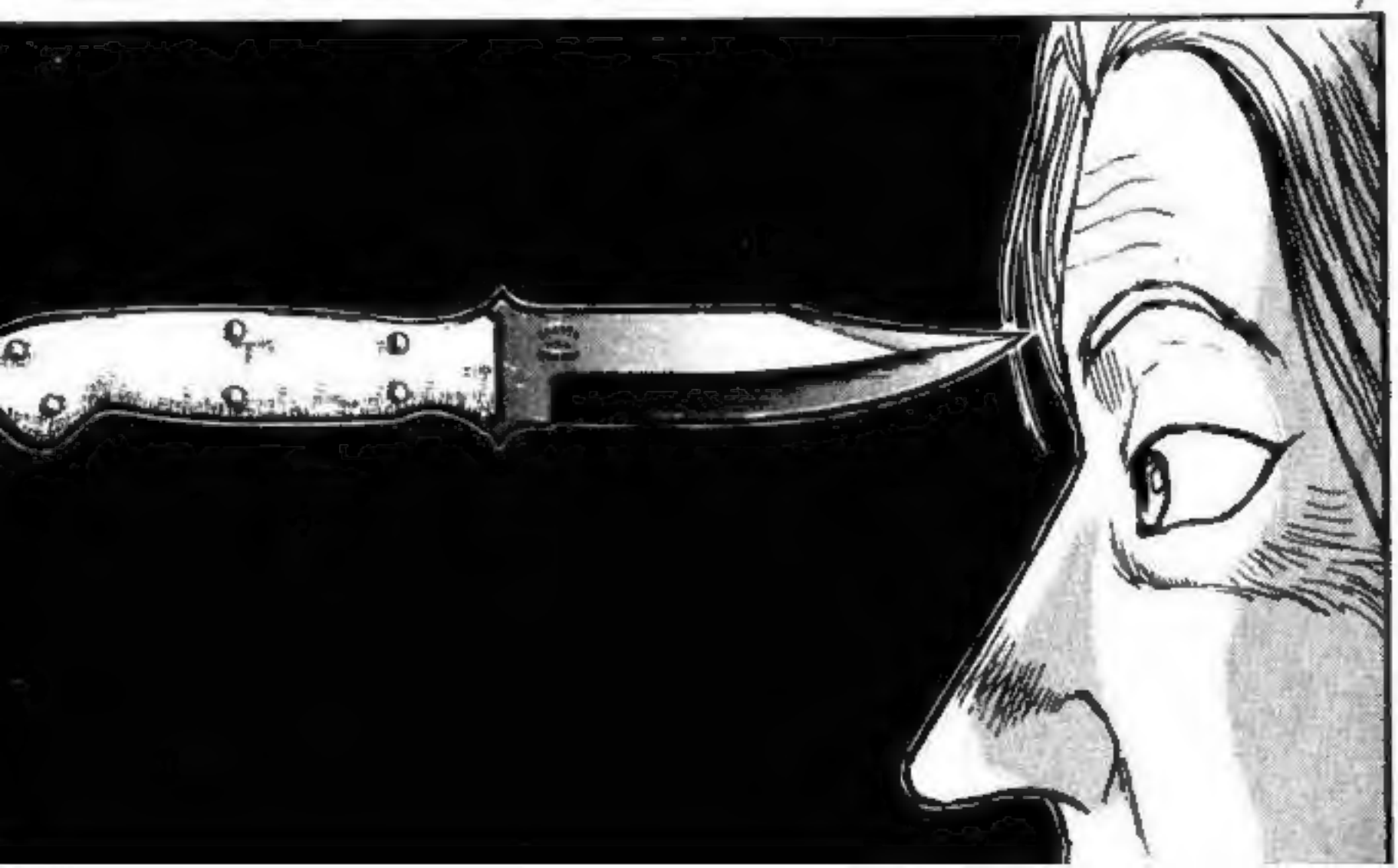
Perhaps it's right under our noses.

Kuh kuh, kind spectators.

New York

It's just one dike!
God dammit! Why can't we kill her!!





Get her!

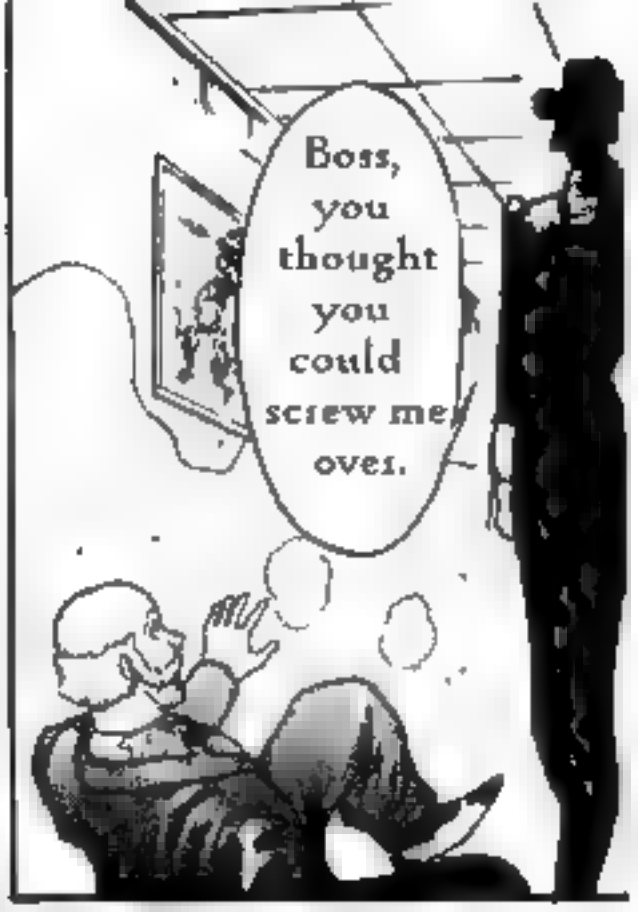
Ge-

KA-CHI

Gah!!

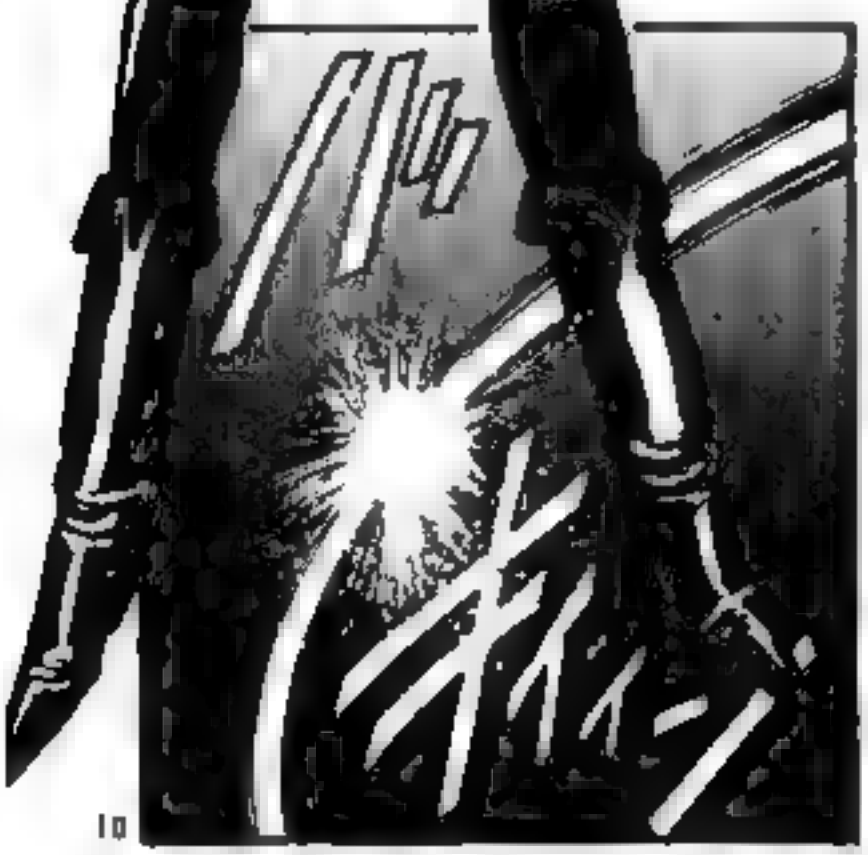
I'll pay you... what we agreed...
I'm... I'm sorry!

I'd do the hit and then you'd get rid of me too, huh?


Boss, you thought you could screw me over.

I...I was just...
W-we weren't going to get rid of you...

Just thinking of you...



V i l m a !!

It...

It can't be...

...are faster than any bullet.

Black Vilma's shooting stars...

I can't... go on, Vilma.

Hang in there, Pam.

Don't talk, Pam.

Hey... Hey, Vilma...

Isn't it about time... to go straight?

It's all right... it's something you resign yourself to in this business...

You can't leave me all alone.

T-that was just a joke, Pam! I was born to the circus... but now...

"I'll go back to the circus"...

You've been saying it for a long time... "Someday, I won't be a hit man..."

Huh?

Don't forget... your little brother... Vilma.

Pam, stand up!

Go straight.

Save the money... from your next job.

P a m ! !

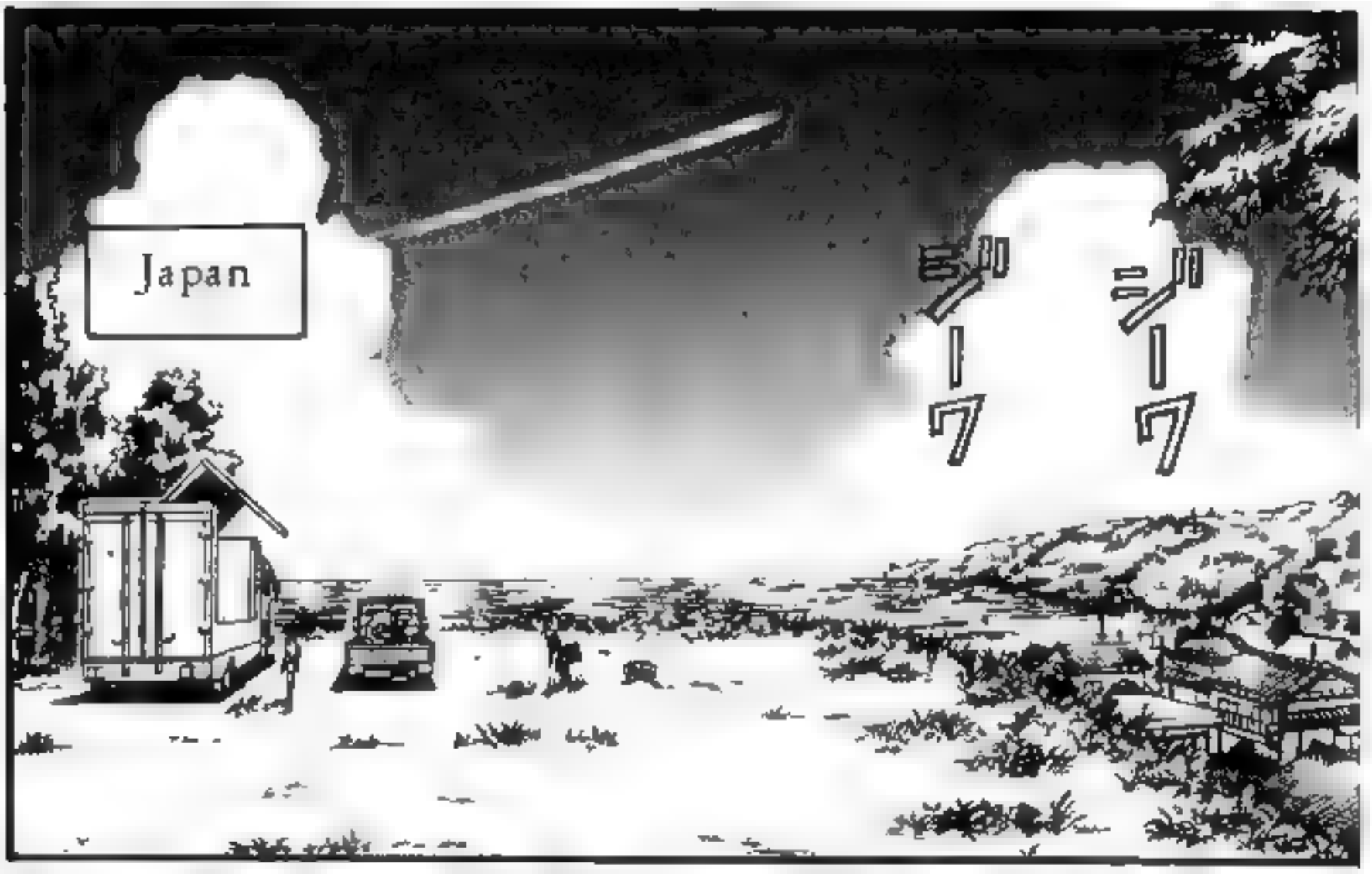
P a m ?

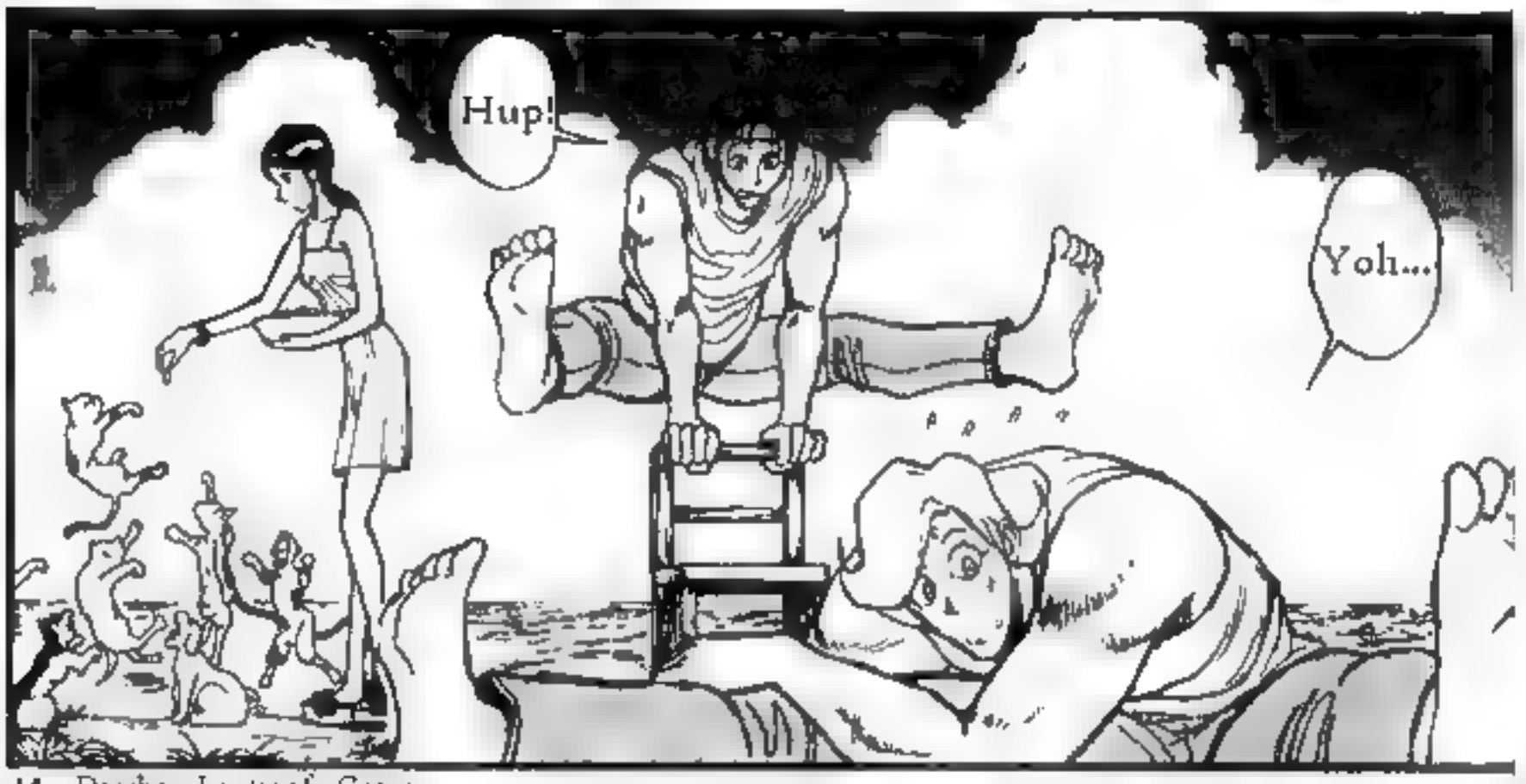
... is already ...

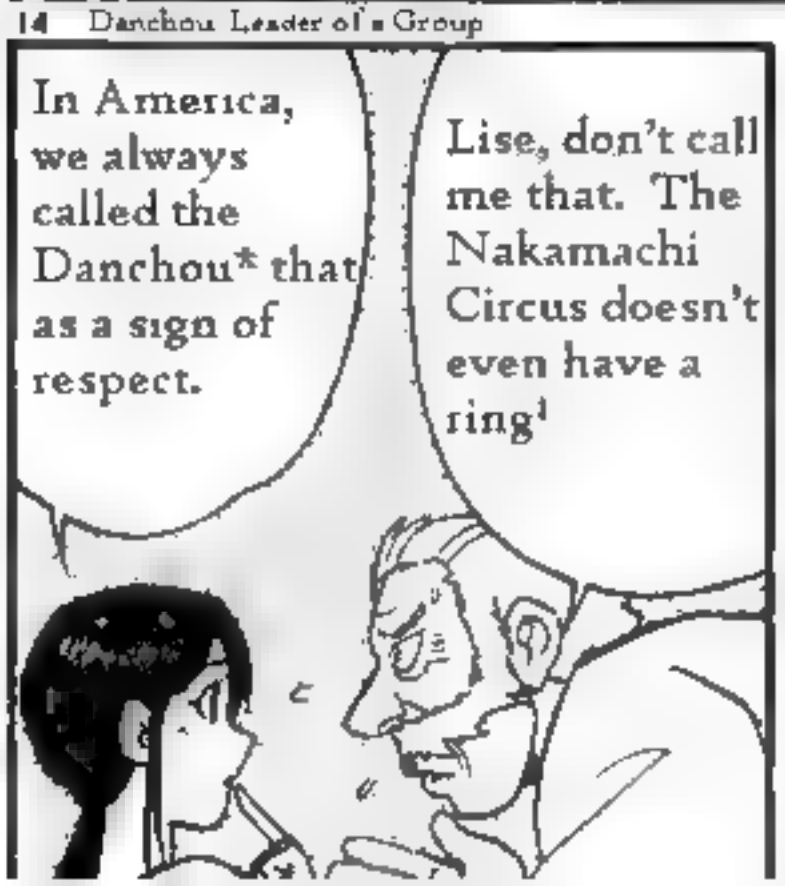
Your final...

job...

set...


Japan
1917
1917


Hup!
Yoh...


In America, we always called the Danchou* that as a sign of respect.
Lise, don't call me that. The Nakamachi Circus doesn't even have a ring!

What's the matter, Ringmaster?
Hmm...

And, Shirogane can handle just about anything with ease.

Even without her machine, she's a flexible acrobat.

Now, we have your animal taming, Nori's chair balancing,

and Hiro's tightrope...

Well, I guess that's all right then...

I've been thinking we don't have enough on our program.

Really?

Yes! Something just like that!

You understand completely!

ぱしぱし

You mean... like a pistol show... or knife-throwing?

But still, it's not enough!

When I didn't know if there would even be a tomorrow for this circus, you and Shirogane really turned it around with your performances. I'm grateful for that.

Thrills to make them tingle, to make them scream!

THRILLS!

おはは

But... without even a tent, we can't put on a show...

no matter what I say!

.....

16

Shirogane's going to a nearby high school...

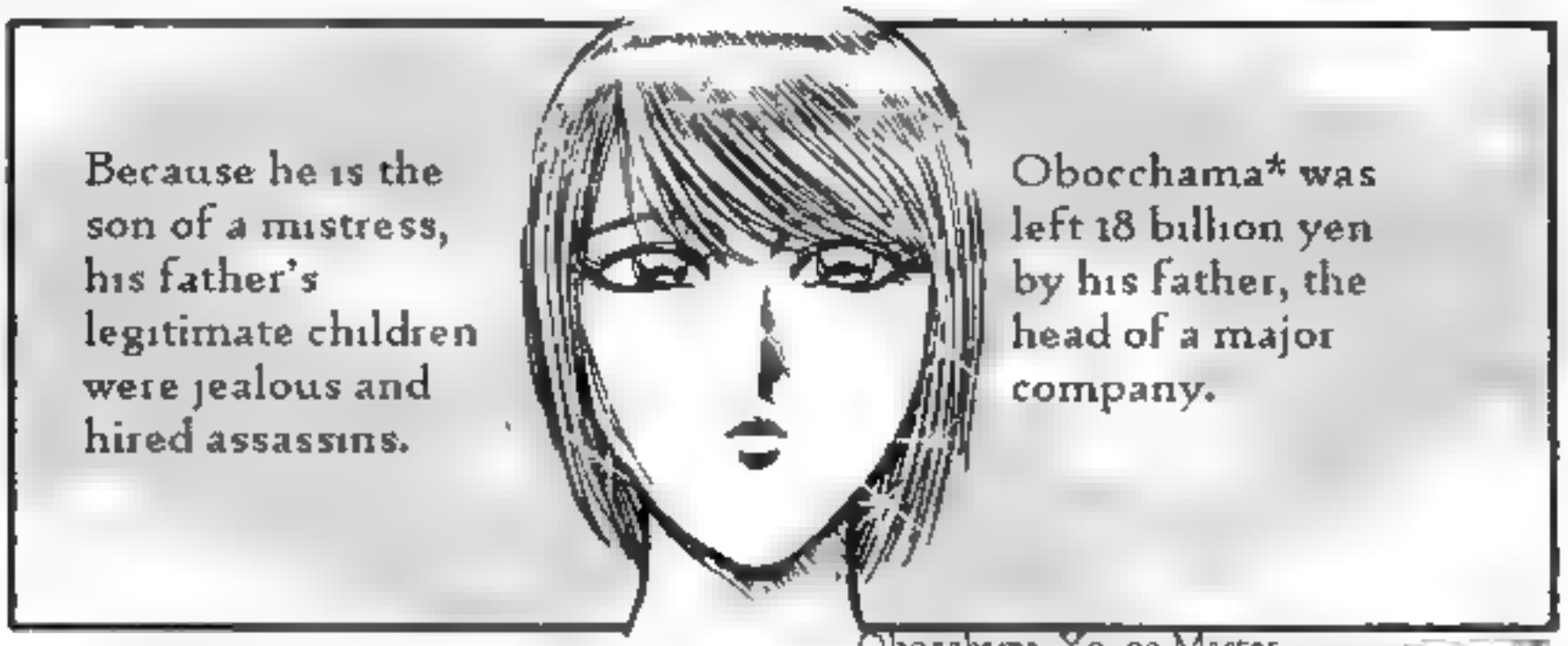
Uh-huh. Now that summer break is over, I'm going to grade school here.

That's enough from you two!

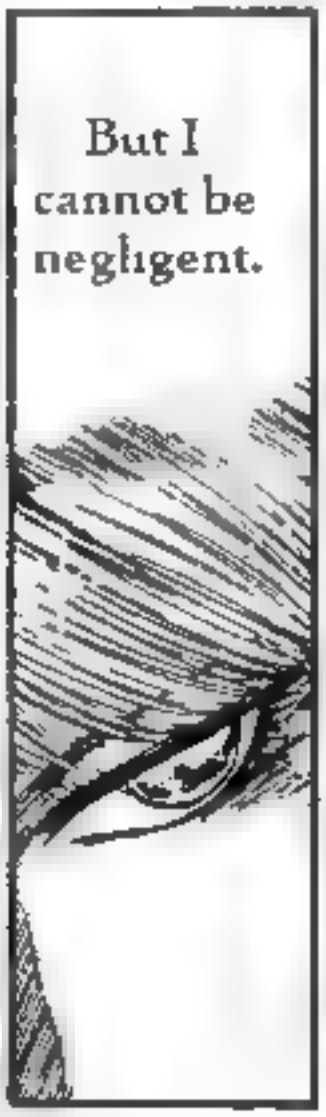
Tadaima

Oh, Masaru, you've transferred to your new school?

20


Because he is the son of a mistress, his father's legitimate children were jealous and hired assassins.
Obocchama* was left 18 billion yen by his father, the head of a major company.

Obocchama: Young Master



REQUEST
MISSION : MURDER
CLIENT : JAPAN, SAIGA GROUP PRESIDENT,
SAIGA REAL ESTATE DIRECTOR
KOUTAROU SAIGA

My last job, eh?
TARGET

ホ

One-Woman Show

Presents

Le Cirque de Karakuri

KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

Translation, Cleaning, Scanlation:

HisaRania

All for the love of Fujita-Sensei!

Izu

Wow! Did you make these?

Here's your bentou. Good luck!

Well

Me too

If I had my choice, I'd rather try Shirogane's

These are fine

It looks like Shirogane doesn't really grasp the concept of onigiri

?

Right.

You're going to work construction for all our sakes, so good luck!

Salmon and bonito flakes!

Well, Shirogane, you protected me when my life was in danger. .

But you should be free.

Since everyone else is working,

I think I will work as well

Is that all right, Obo-cchama?

But I don't know. what I should do now.

You say that

You're not my servant, Shirogane!

Lize-san and I can't work and will house-sit. Do you have any idea what you'll do?

All right

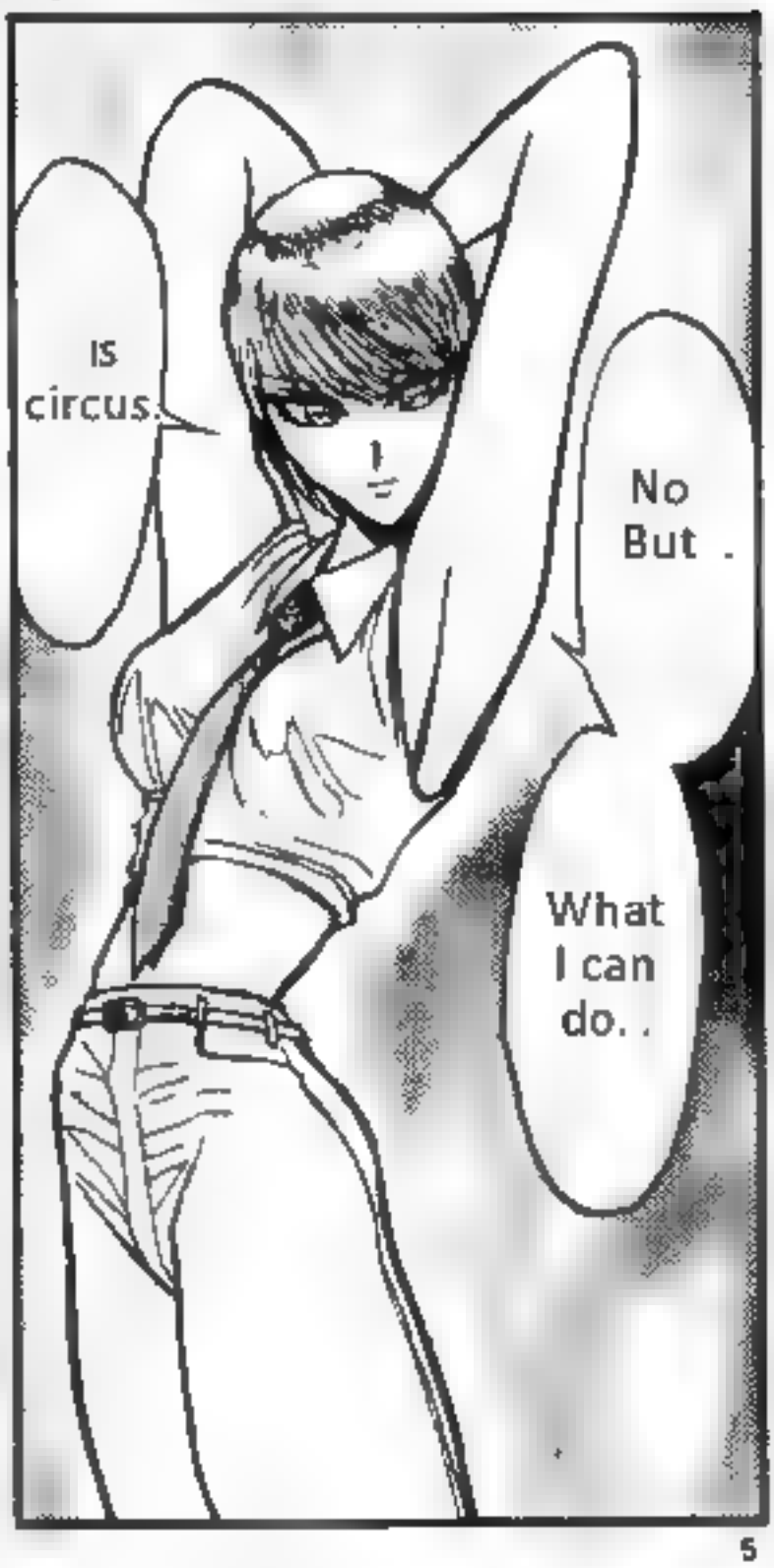
Yeah So do what you want to do

Truly?

I want to enjoy life with you, Shirogane

You'll soon make that face!

Sign: Izu Banana Zoo



5

Oh, but you said this is your last.

This time the target

is a kid

Just tell me about the job

So harsh, Vilma.

Why's he with a bunch of street performers?

Name: Saiga Masaru, age 11

He's moving around with some street performers, currently in Izu

The contract was put out by his siblings.

He's the kid of the mistress and the heir to a huge inheritance, so they're all jealous of him

Well, I don't know. Maybe he sensed he was in danger and ran off?

Oh, that's right, you were born into a family of performers, weren't you?

Huh?

Pam's dead.

This is quite an about-face. Does your girlfriend Pam know about this?

"Black Vilma" is notorious for never killing children

What do you mean?

But is this really okay with you, Vilma?

I need to go into hiding...

Thought I'd retire.

What!? You killed him!? That gang's huge!

Our deal with Rosie's gang in New York went bad. I killed Rosie.

I'm gonna need a sizable sum of cash.

So,

I'll slit your throat so it plays like a flute when you breathe, Juan.

If it weren't for your brother's Zonapha ah-

This wasn't a business you originally wanted to get into, was it?

I see. Well, it's 200,000 yen.

Sorry, Vilma...

S-

We don't hire performers or shows that just barge in.

Places like this leave projects and PR to event companies

Huh? A performance sales promo?

You're a foreigner, so maybe you don't know this.

Whoops, my summer orange gift basket.

Well, get yourself on home.

Ahem

You do the usual circus stuff? Ha ha, what can you do all alone? You're not able to do anything big. You've only got a skilled mouth.

Well, pretty girl like you, might make a living with her mouth in another way.

ピンポン

ストン ストン

コロコロ

レロ

/P /P /P

9

Just one question, Juan.

Yeah?

Yes sir.

Call the planner.

……

レロ

Some city punks could kill him...

One kid? Why do you need a profess-ional's services?

Why so much money for this target?

Clown Show

Oh, I gotta tell you about that too.

Uh... what?

I'm talking here!

Oh, sorry.

Vilma! Hey, Vilma!

They couldn't kill this one kid with 10 of their guys.

Yeah.

You know of the famous Japanese hit man group the "Kuroga Puppeteers"?

The boy has some super-skilled protection.

Protect-ion!

Vilma, come on!

Why are you spacing out staring at that piss-ant performer?

How many skilled people are protecting this child?

Well then..

Well ..

Huh?

It's because of that guard

that you get $200,000 for just a kid

Just a single puppeteer

One, Vilma.

Wait, Vilma!

I can't help getting all excited.

I can't stop myself from messing with them!

But for some reason, anytime I see a performer,

I know...this might cause me some trouble.

That clown's going to get seriously hurt.

A performer's blood runs in her veins.

Damn, she's already started.

That's Vilma's problem.

Sorry for the suddenness,

but how about a little wager?

You're very skilled,

White Face.

A competition with a monetary reward.

How about it?

This is the part where the performer laughs, thinking it's a joke..

Then they chicken out and try to run. .

And Vilma plants a knife in their arm

Sure.

.....

why not.

Thanks ...

What kind of competition?

We throw what we have at each other .

The one that hits wins.

I understand.

カチャ

カチャ

カチャ

What about you?

Come on, White Face.

Hurry up.

-has already begun, hasn't it?

The contest...

Don't screw with me!!!

H-He turned his back on me!!

カラカラカラ

W-what?

Vilma's knives!
Amazing! She intercepted.

Doesn't look as though any of mine got through.
A-a woman?

It's been a while since I had a haircut
Seems I lost.

I know I must pay up, but I don't have any money...

One of my knives!

I love it!

Ah ha ha ha! You're just great!!

-is kill a child.

And the next thing you're gonna do-

You look to be having so much fun-

Jeez...

Otaku-Weapons Show

Presents

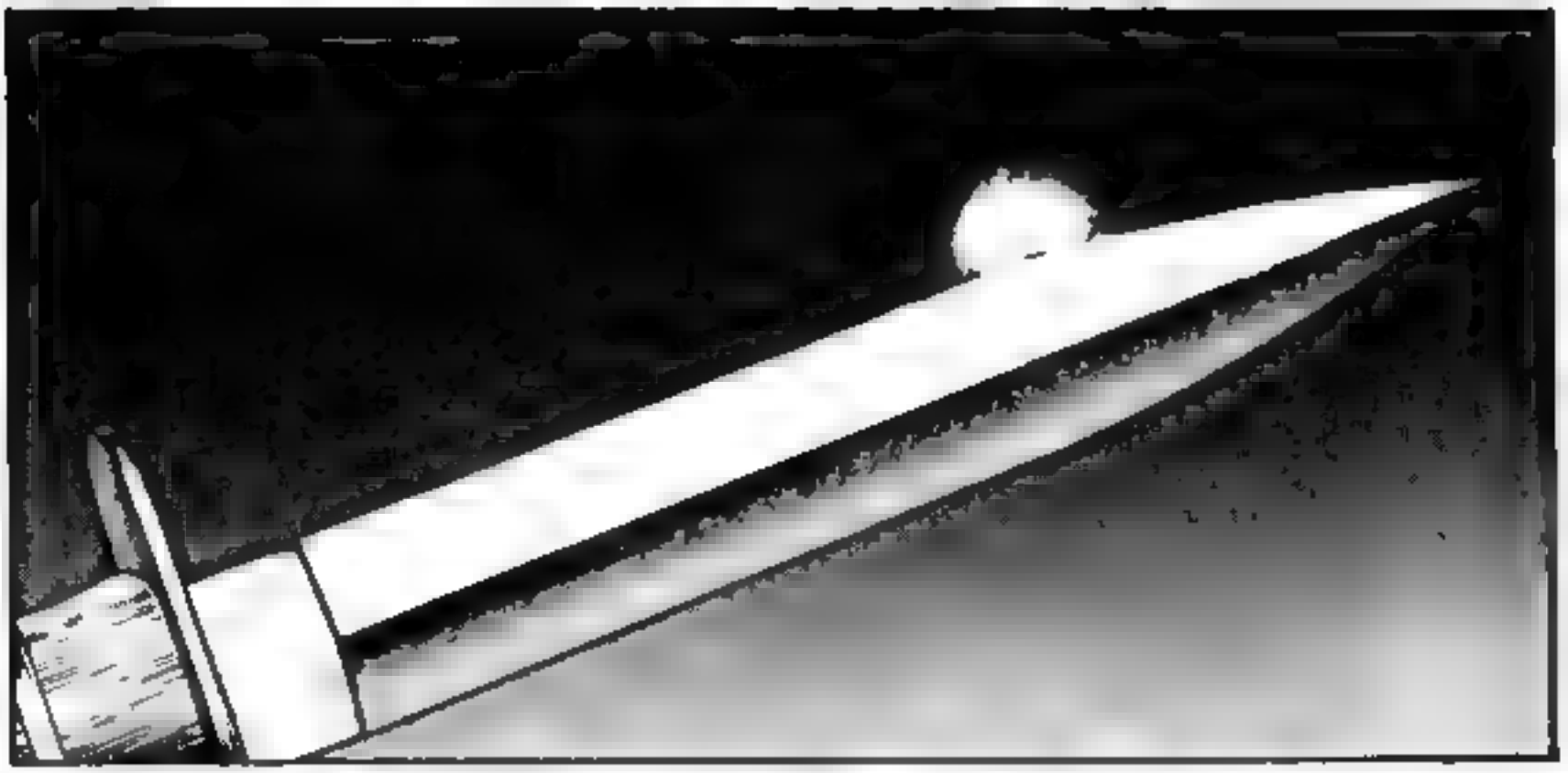
Le Cirque de Karakuri

KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

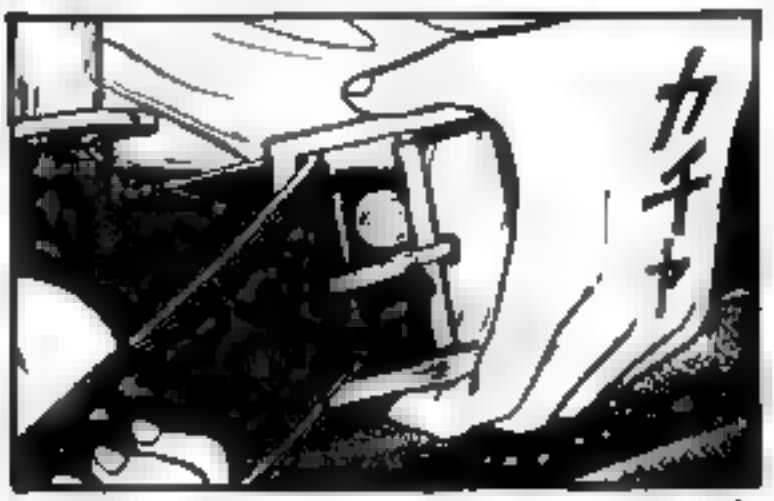
Translation, Cleaning, Scanlation:

HisaRania

All for the Love of Fujita-Sensei!



Act 3
The Hit Man Arrives



Time to get to work.

So,

But that woman I met this afternoon... that was interesting.

Hu...

The target is an 11 year-old boy...

2

You made some money performing all on your own!

ｹﾘｰﾝ

Really, Shirogane?

おい
Moron! Hiro, how can we compete against Shirogane's looks and artistry!
I'd like to quit my part-time job at construction and make money performing too, Aniki!
I wish I could have seen it.
I envy you, Shirogane
You two- hands off!
All right. Even with what you said, I wouldn't ask you to hand it over.. I appreciate it.
As for the money, I earned this as a member of the Nakamachi Circus.
Please take it.
Actually, I got to know someone very personally today
Really?
Yes, in fact.
Did anything interesting happen?
Hey, Shirogane, I've been practicing the unicycle all day.

ニィ

ミィ

わぎゃ

がや

がや

ZOO

And you?

Well, you may be called "Shirogane", but you're consummately French.

グビ

Yes. The only alcohol I can drink is wine.

You sure that stuff's okay?

A weekend at the zoo is the same in any country, right? The only healthy thing to do is have a beer.

Oh, sorry

I'm Vilma Thorn. Call me Vilma. I'm American.

Shirogane is drinking Strawberry Milk

It's from... a long time ago...

Did you do it? More silver than a platinum blonde, and your eyes too...

Your hair coloring is pretty amazing.

?

What circus were you with?

Your knife throwing was impress-ive as well

Your ring and ball juggling was spectacular.

It's the first time I've ever seen the balls rebounded through the rings at the same time.

When you first called out to me, you didn't call me "clown", but "White Face". Not many people know the different types of clowns.

Why do you ask?

Because I ■■■ knives?

. was born into a circus performer family.

I .

. .I see .

.....

I entered the ring when I was 7 years old

Since I was little, I've practiced knife-throwing and juggling every day .

You're quite knowledgeable, Vilma-san

I'm a bit different- a "nouveau enfant de la balle".

Well, being French, I guess you'd could call me an "enfant de la balle"*.

You the same, Shirogane?

* a child raised by artists in a Bohemian way

I'm sorry. Is it polite to interrupt while listening to a story? Besides,

I don't usually talk like this!

Hey, a little "aizuchi"* please!

.....

But in the end, I got into a different trade

I always thought I'd be a knife-thrower like my parents...

*Japanese practice of commenting while others are talking to show you are listening

Well... not really.

It's does seem...

difficult to talk about.

Did... something happen?

My life wasn't destined to be in the circus.

Do you know of Zonapha Syn-drome?

My little brother caught it.

You may not know of it, but it's a strange disease.

But I wasn't as good at the art of knife-throwing as my parents were...

My parents worked like crazy, and so did I.

It cost a lot of money for him to get into a big hospital and get consults from doctors.

Is your brother with Zonapha Syndrome still.

So

I got another job..

He died at 15.

There were complications to his Zonapha.

If I don't make people laugh, it causes me a lot of pain.

I've got a sickness called Zonapha Syndrome

It's all right. It's two years ago now.

Th- that's.

Zonapha Syndrome.

You're a strange one!

Why're you apologizing for not smiling!

Katou Narumi!!

Katou!

...I see.

Is he-

What! Really!?

I... I also knew someone with Zonapha Syndrome.

Huh? What is it, Shirogane?

How 'bout another straw-berry milk!

Oh...

Now I feel like getting to know you better!

Quite a coinci-dence.

Ha ha...

I was a little surprised myself.

Before, I only thought of other people as being or not being enemies.

But it's rather rare for you to speak so openly with another person.

Yes.

Wow! You really got along well with a woman like that.

Since I met you and joined the Nakamachi Circus, speaking with people it's the chore it used to be.

How-ever ,

People who weren't enemies were just that. Extraneous conversation with them was just a burden to me..

Shirogane, aren't the stars pretty?

Obocchama, Have I become... strange?

Uh-uh...

Yep!

Truly?

I like this Shirogane better!

Ah... yes.

What's wrong?

Oh-

Absolutely not.

You can just keep them.

Come on Shirogane, they're just balloons

I forgot to return the balloons I used to the zoo.

Just one should be all right.

Shirogane, please show me a little.

Would you have me steal in front of Obocchama?

Itte rasshaıl

Well, I'll go return these to the zoo right away.

Who is it!

I was told they repulsed the Kuroga Puppeteers,

an infamous Japanese Hit Man Group.

But who's the body-guard?

Now one of them is leaving.

If they were the target's bodyguard, they wouldn't separate from him.

Him?

Hmm, not those two.

She's not an ordinary girl.. but she's too young.

Jim..

Forgive me.

This is the last time

But he's the only one who looks capable of life-saving tactics

He looks old enough to be retired...

I'll do this. Lize-san, you can fold clothes, okay?

All right then. Thanks!

Lize, Masaru, we'll leave the washing up to you.

All right.

'Night!

I'm so glad

about what Shirogane said happened today

Masaru-san, do you want to have some coffee with- oh?

た、

She seems to be letting go of what happened to Narumi-niichan

Oh, Lize-san?

たたた

Ah, okaeri-nasai, Shirogane san.

Tada-ima.

He's probably in the bath-room

Well, where could he have gone?

No?

Did Masaru-san come to meet you?

Ah, Shiro-gane-san!

I left his side!!

I did this!

ドドドドドド

W-what's going on!?

…

Hah

Hah

Sorry, bouya, but now I've gotta kill you.

Your Japanese.. is really good.

Oneesan

You want to live, but it's just like children who die from disease.

I'm sure you want to cry about this.

Not something I'd expected from someone scared . You're quite composed.

I'm sur-prised..

let you see me cry!

I would never-

Well, people usually do. Even adults.

Would it be more satisfying if I cried or screamed?

17

what's that?

At that time I decided something.

It happened... before.

I knew something like this would happen some day.

!

Oboo-
ccha-
maaa!!

.....

You!?

One-Woman Show Peasants

Le Cirque de Karakuri

KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

Translating and Scanlating: Hisa Rania

Cleaning: Judash137

All for the love of Fujita-Sensei!

Obo-
cchama!

Obo-
cchama!

is my
raison
d'etre!

Protect-
ing
him-

If
something's
happened
to him,
I don't
know what
I'll do!

Then you
can
become
more than
a puppet!

Protect a
boy
named
Masaru,
Shirogane!

This
way!

第4幕 ナイフ&マリオネット

Act 4 Knife & Marionette

Act 4

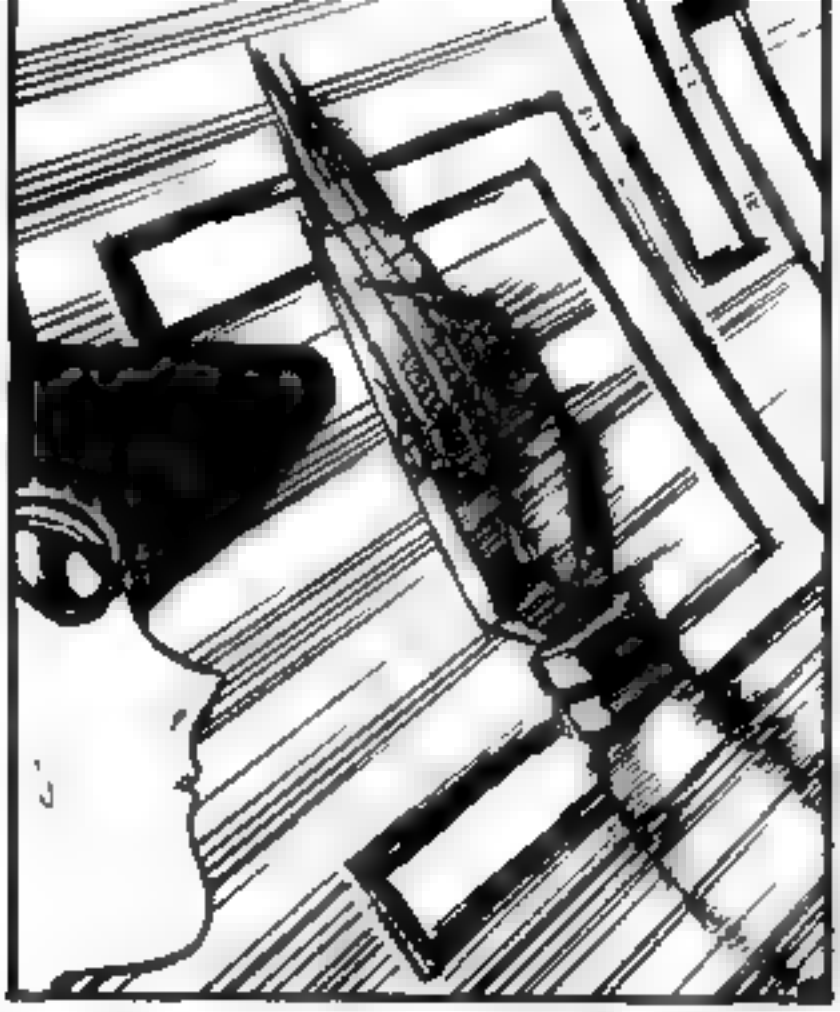
第4幕 *Knife & Marionette*

ナイフ&マリオネット

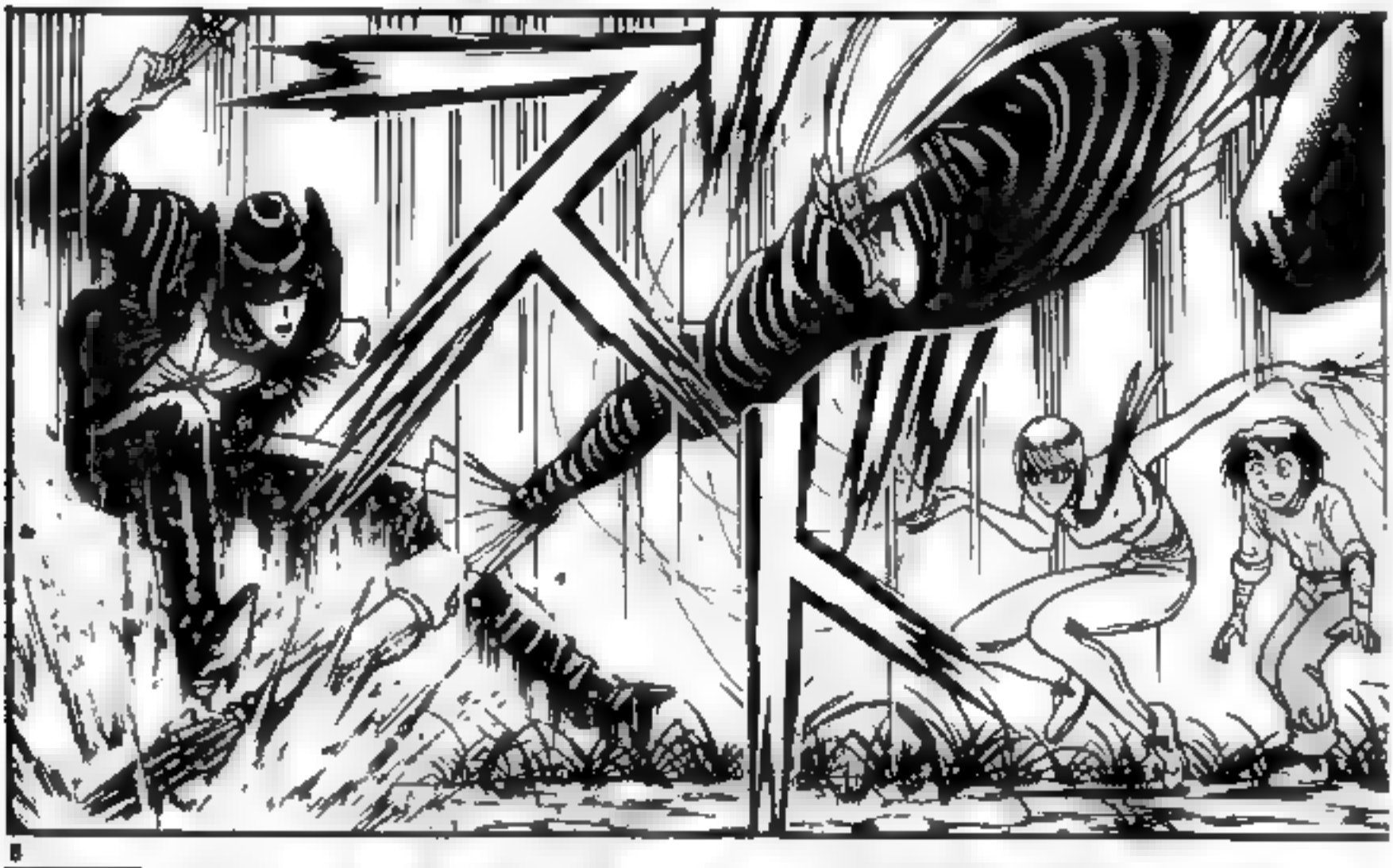
Y-
you!?

Obocchama!!

ARLEQUIN!!!



W-what the-!? A puppet!



I'm gonna have to get serious..
It seems-

Oh, thank goodness I was in time!

Shirogane!

Are you all right?!

You were hired by his siblings, weren't you?

Target? You're a hit man then.

To think, the clown I met this afternoon was my target's bodyguard... and that you're a puppeteer.

I'm surprised too, Shirogane.

Vilma... It's you!

Shiro-gane, she's...

<<..

Then... Then this person is the one...

you were getting along with at the zoo...

It's business, so I can't actually say.

I'm telling you, using a puppet won't save you from my knives...

How-ever..

Too bad I thought we could be friends.

I am here to protect Obo-cchama.

I will not let you kill him.

We don't know if she was really after me!

Shiro-gane!

Not... for sure...

You're quite skilled, both as a clown and a puppeteer.

Strange, Shiro-gane!

So where's your fee coming from?

From the looks of him, the kid ain't backing you.

Don't tell me you're doing this pro bono!?

So fast!

Black Vilma's shooting stars are faster than any bullet.

Well, on to that Masaru boy...

With your focus on manipulating the puppet, you can't avoid them.

Shirogane!
Shirogane!!

She can still mani-pulate it...

No way!

11

Your turn is over, Shirogane.

My knees will never touch the ground.

As long as you are in danger,

I'm all right.. Obo-cchama.

It's time to say good-night!

Shi-!!

I will never allow anyone

to harm you.

If I'm your target, target me!

Obo-ccha-ma!

Chiih!

That ain't normal...

Why's that?

At first, I didn't think...

that you really intended to kill me!

13

Well... that's so you would be too scared to run away...

Someone as good at knives as you wouldn't have missed me twice!

But if you can do this, you really are a villain!

You look like a person who likes straight-forward-ness

You wouldn't do something so useless when you kill!

So. I thought you might really be a good person.

you're getting really good at knives!

Oneechan...

J i m ...

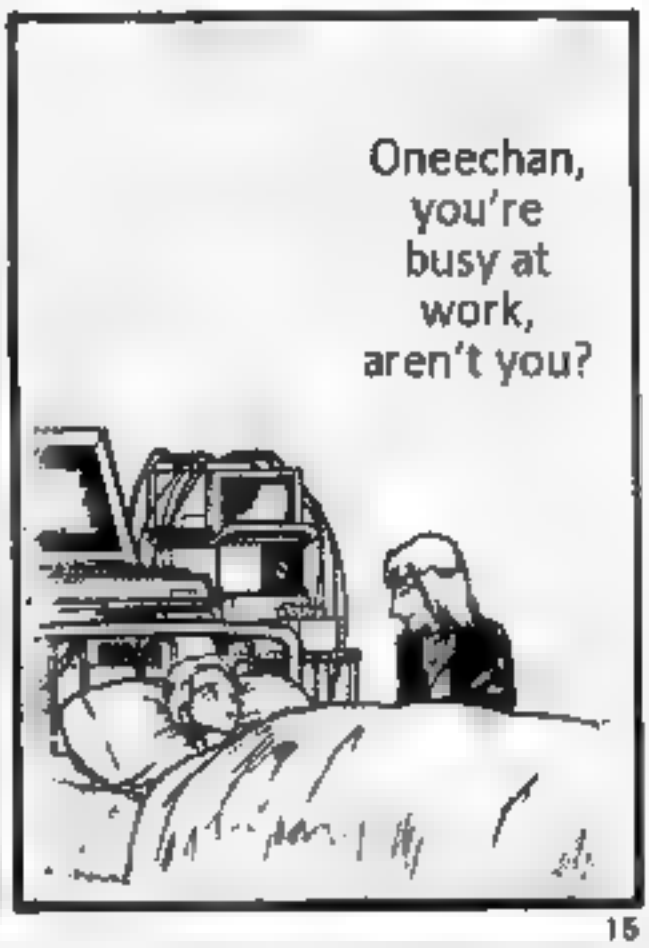
It's just a cold
It's okay

cough
cough

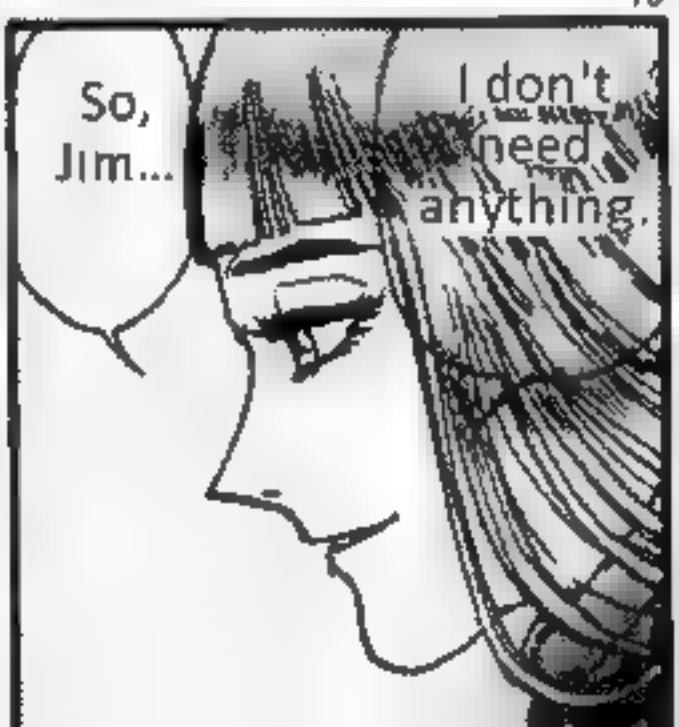
but Jim-kun has a terribly rare disease called Zonapha Syndrome
It's hard for me to say this,

My sickness...must cost a lot of money.
...I'm sorry.

It's all for you
No, not at all.


Oneechan, you're busy at work, aren't you?

You still..
have to show me your knife throwing


So, Jim...
I don't need anything.

Get...

Get well soon.

So, Jim...

-like that...

Don't look at me-

Jim,

You asked about my fee, Vilma.

I'll tell you.

You should have died instantly... how can you still work the puppet?!

Gah-

Ah-

Then I won't even want for my body tomorrow...

If it means protecting him...

I don't need anything.

If it means keeping him safe...

Otaku-Woman's Show Presents

Le Cirque de Karakuri

KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

Translating and Scanlating: Hisa Rania

Cleaning: Judash137

All for the love of Fujita-Sensei!

Act 5:
A Brief Curtain Close

She's hitting you with all these knives because you're protecting me!

Enough! That's enough!!

2

Obo... ccha-ma...

Don't die! I'll get an ambu-lance!!

I told you before!

You're not my servant, Shiro-ganel

スウ

Watch

Because shirogane have a special existence.

But... how?

T the wound.. dis- appeared!?

What's a knife-thrower where knives are useless?

Ah well...

Kuh kuh ...

I won't be slinking away

Well, either way .

I did not repel them by myself

And my target is being protected by a monster...

Even ten of the famous "Kuroga Puppet-eers" couldn't kill the boy

Arlequiiiiin!

Guh-

No!
I want you
to live!

It's all
right
I live only
to protect
you.

Stop!
Shirogane,
you'll
die!!

Kuh-

So you can't die until you've become human!

You said it yourself! You're protecting me to become human!

Obo-ccha-ma...

. but that Masaru kid reminds me of...

What's he talking about?

Protecting a child to become human...

No-it's too late for a sedative.

He needs full anesthesia

Diazapam!

Ventilator, quickly!

Wheeze

Wheeze

Jim, it's me! Hold on!

Jim-

Wheeze

O. neechan.

Do something! He's in pain!

I'm paying you plenty, so you doctors better do something!

Why. are you angry?

Don't... be...

.onee . chan

Jim.

Mama and Papa said performers shouldn't get angry . in front of patrons.

So... hey everyone

Just watch

My sister's art.

Your... knife-throwing too...

I want... to see..

Jim...

The return of the Wild West Knife Expert

Ladies and gentle-men,

Hurry up

Come on..

As she strikes the apple on a boy's head.

Now a round of applause

Her name is Vilma Thorn,

but she's better known as Black Vilma.

I can't throw knives at you...

Jim... no...

I can't...

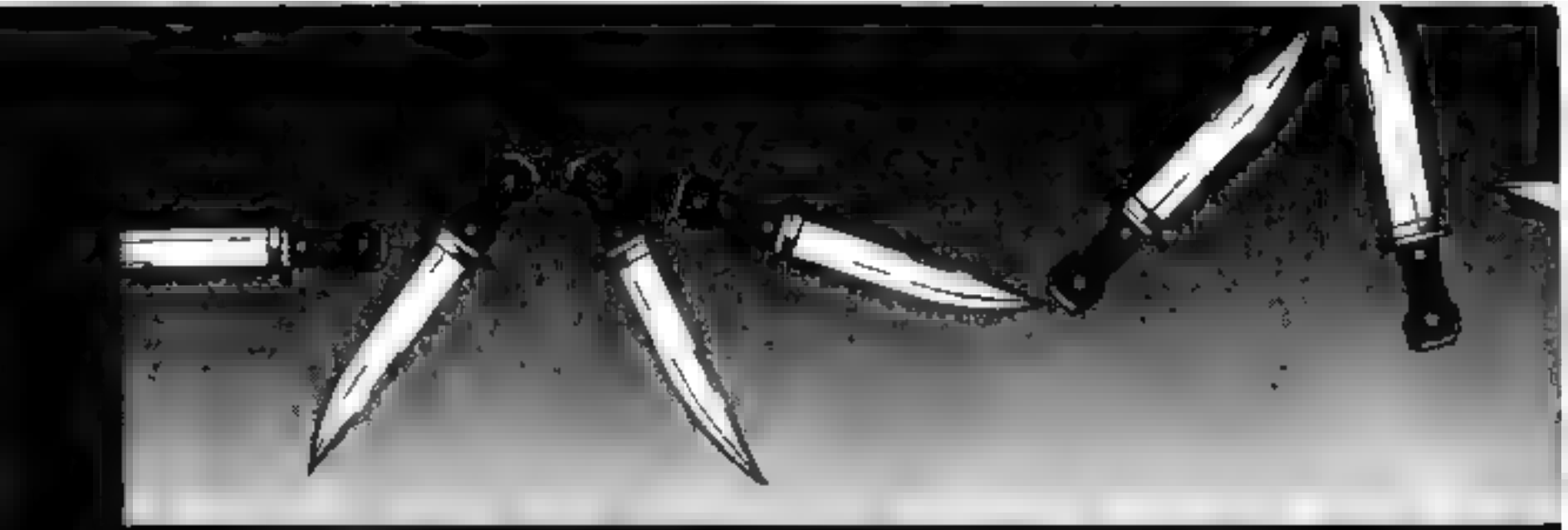
The Jim and Vilma . Wild. West. Knife . Show

What are you... saying, Oneechan?

When I... get better.. you'll do it at the circus..

Black .. Vilma's shooting stars

are faster than. . any .. bullet...



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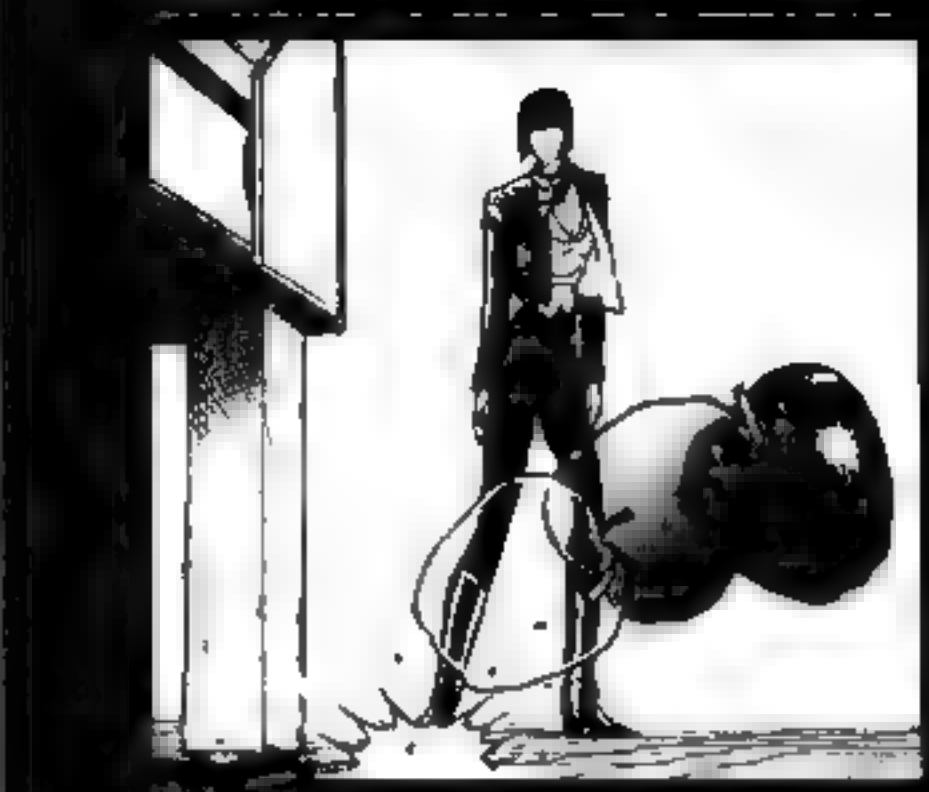
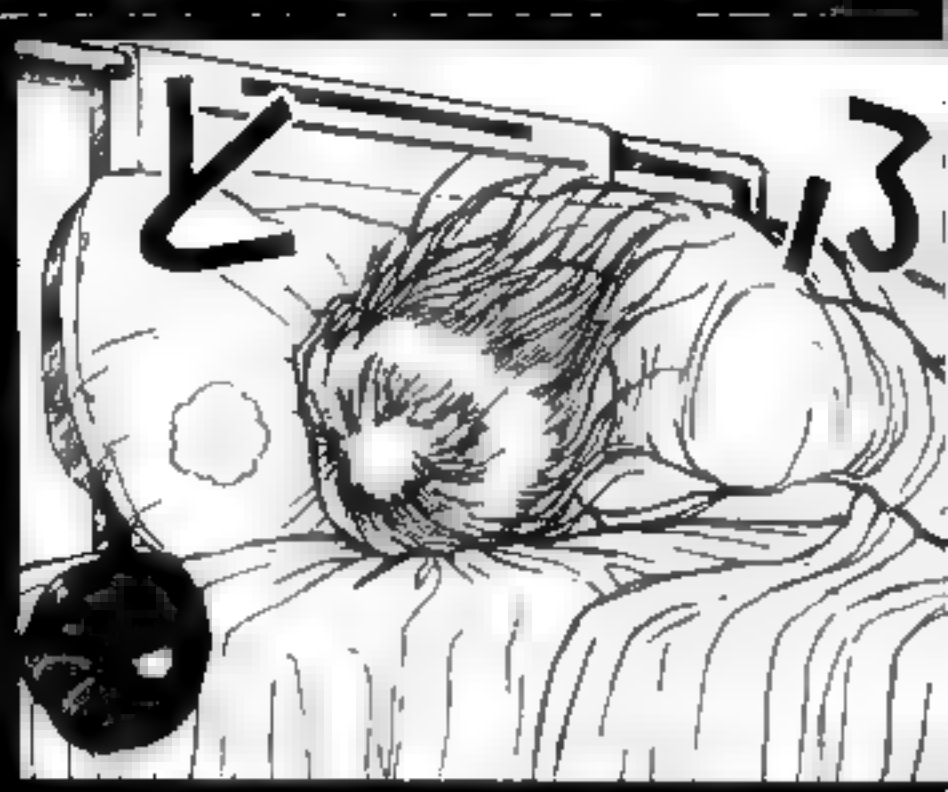



ドン

Jim

That boy reminds me of a terrible time

I can get him right now!

This is the last time .

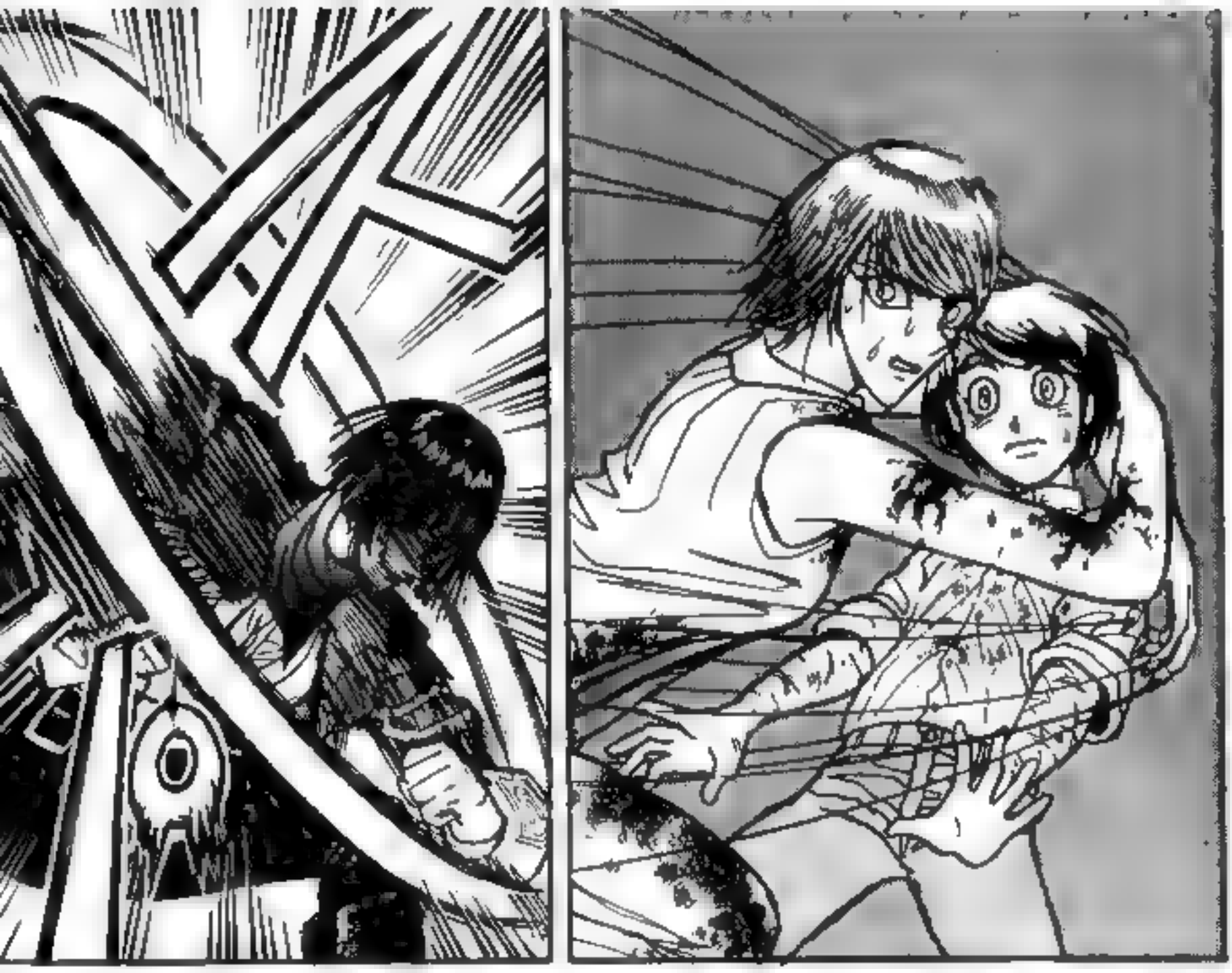
I will kill anyone... Jim

スウウ

Ah!

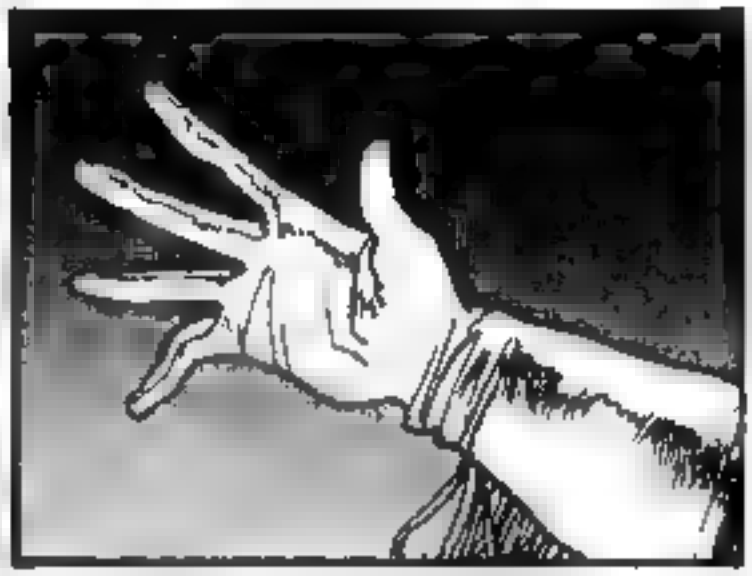
!

Dammit!


pocOO

ZOOM

Sorry... Jim...
Fuh



I missed... again.

Stop!

If I don't kill her, she could come after you again

You can't murder someone! Especially not for my sake!!

Wait- Shirogane, what are you doing!?

She's passed out...

Those who don't value their own lives don't under-stand how precious the lives of others are!!

But she...

はっ

I'm so sorry you got hurt, Shirogane

We'll do as you say, Obo-cchama.

Ah. all right

You really scared me, Shirogane

W-what!?

Here we go~

It's all right. It's already healing

If you'll wait here a moment, I'll go wash the blood off.

When you were hit in the head with those knife.

It was only by luck that you weren't killed this time!

W-what!? You intend to nurse a killer back to health!?

Well, we can't just leave her here

she seemed so heart-broken...

But. why?

Do you think she was really trying to hit me with that knife?

Hm?

That might be so.

Well, I don't really know. I just had a feeling...

Where, do you think?

and she attacks you again?

But what will you do if we bring her back

Like...she wanted to leave here for somewhere but didn't have a way to...

Well...

Nothing for it now...

Thanks, Shiro-gane.

Sorry

I'll get stronger.

but didn't have a way to...

Like...she wanted to leave here for somewhere...

Otsu-Women's Show Presents

Le Cirque de Karakuri

KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

Translating and Scanlating: Hisa Rania

Cleaning: Judash137

All for the love of Fujita-Sensei!

Circus~ Candidates for Enrollment

サーカス～入団希望者

第1幕 *Act 1*

開幕ベル

The Curtain Rises

Where ?

The target!?

Ow..

And you will die

Do anything to him...

You were carried here, as he wished...

What happ-ened?

.....

3

Once he'd stopped me from killing you,

he insisted on telling everyone here that you were someone we'd found collapsed on the street

Would this happen to be the street performers' bunk?

Here?

Yes.

Kyah ha ha ha! Is this some kind of joke?

Is the target you're guarding crazy!? I tried to take his life!!

Silence!

thought you might be hot and fanned you with that uchiwa all night long?

Is it a joke that an 11 year old child-

What are you talking about? I'm a pro.

Obocchama told me

he didn't think that you were serious about killing him.

You are my target, Vilma.

That's why I am here.

I am aware You aren't going to give up

trying to murder him so easily.

If you want to stay unharmed, heal quickly, leave, and never come back.

absolutely.

Is the boy that important?

You're a damned monster.

But

スルル

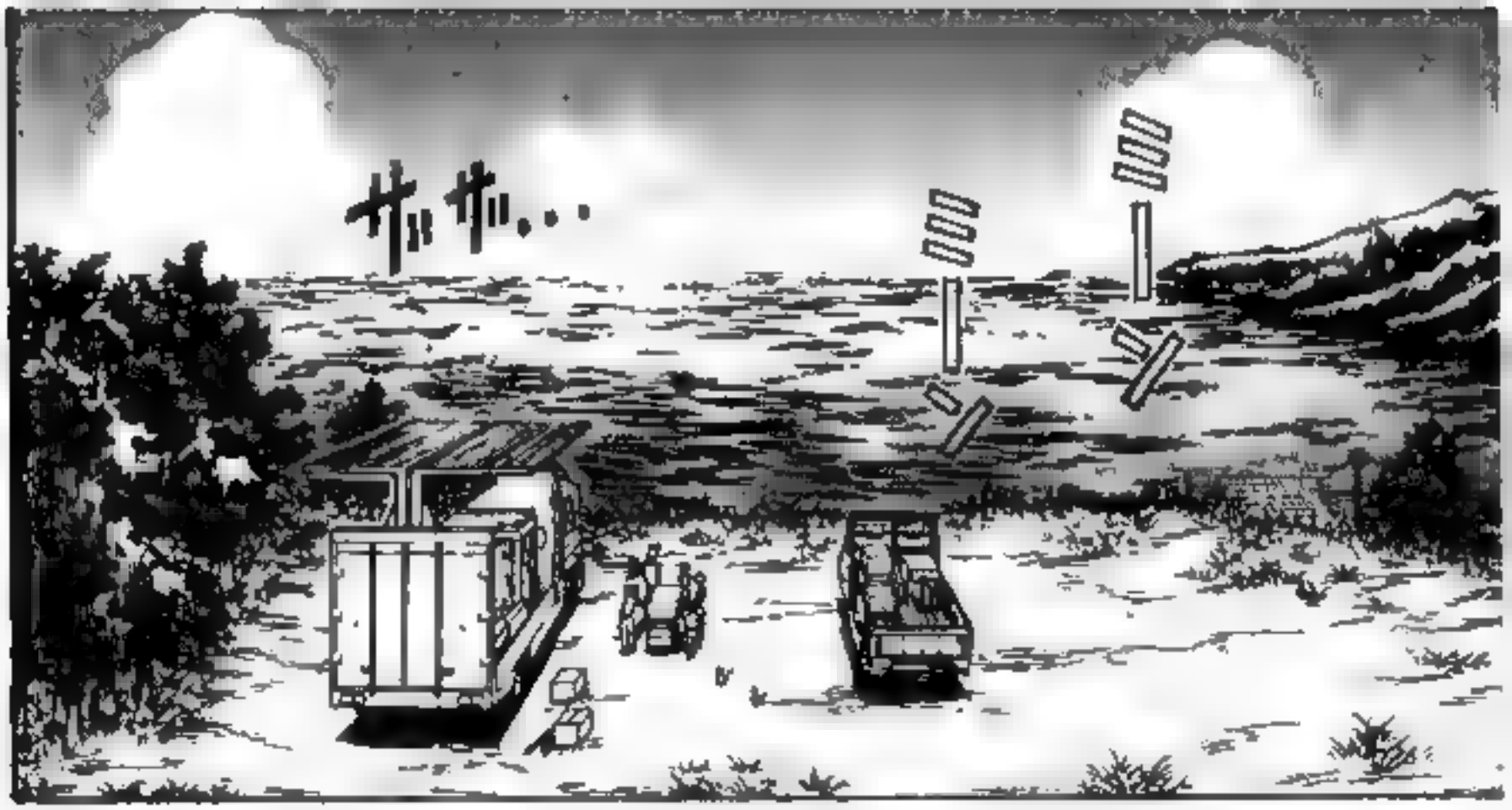
is quite sexy.

Your teary face...

So violent with an injured person...

you're going to wake up the boy

Oh, scary, scary!


Around here?
And you're perform-ing?!
A Performers' Meet!?
Hmm They're putting on something like the "Daidougei Festival" in Yokohama and Noge,
and the "Daidougei World Cup" in Shizuoka
It's an event aimed at revitalizing the area by drawing in tourists.
there would be many people and that I should go out for it
The people who let me work at their zoo said-

Yeah, let's all go!

Sounds like fun!

What will you perform?

Uwah! I'll come see you, Shirogane!

No...

Well.. you see..

No,

it's all right

Danchou..

Forgive my impertinence,

WHAT!? You signed us all up to perform!?

So, when is it?

I'm glad Shirogane to have any place to perform.

Well...
tomorrow...

I'm sorry. I'm so sorry!
Yeah, Shiroganel
Are you crazy, Shiroganel? Why didn't you tell us sooner!!

Circus performers always want to perform
Just as you say, Masaru-san Me too.

-but everyone really wanted to perform their skills
I thought I would definitely be scolded for deciding something on my own,

A lion would cause a LOT of trouble

No way!

Yep Yep!

Yes! This time I should have Drum in my animal taming show-

Of course. It's why we've practiced so hard.

Yessir

Shirogane, we need to decide how we're going to arrange the performances

You can't... go home again...

I think she'll be fine to go once she wakes up.

By the way, how's that woman you found?

A long time ago, anyone down on their luck could join, but we're not in a position to do that.

I believe Obocchama understands that

but we really couldn't pick up anyone else very easily.

Yeah? That's for the best.

I didn't really want to say it,

It was discovered that Danchou Mitsuoshi Moromi and his son Naota-

According to the employees,

-were frequently mis-appropriating proceeds,

causing a great many of the troupe to resign.

One of the largest circuses in the country, the "Straw Circus", has in fact dissolved due to management corruption

And next in news

Hm.

But losing your circus is really-

Well, I don't really think of Danchou Mitsuushi very kindly ..

Hmm the Straw Circus went bankrupt?

はは

Just what he gets!!

Oooo, feels so good!

He was such a swaggering braggart!

Yeah! Now that jackass Naota is the same as us!!

I made so many memories there...

The Straw Circus is gone now...

Remember what those father-son morons did to you!

Oyassan, what are you saying!?

Well, there's nothing for it.

It's where I first met Shirogane and the first place I performed with Lize-san.

14

Fuhn.

ゴロ

A group... of street performers, eh?

わー

わー

Are you really all right?
Sure you shouldn't see a doctor?

We don't have much room, so be careful to move back each time
Yessir!
Yessir!
Okay. Let's set up!

Yeah, Hiro, she's really hot.

Aniki, now that I look again...

And you boys say things such nice things too.

Oh, Nakamachi!

Thank you so much, my savior!

I just have to see the show of the nice guys who saved me when I was feeling so discouraged in this foreign land.

Oh my...

Oh... well...

Oh, Liesolette-chan, right? You're so cute!

I could just eat you up.

That woman is still targeting you.

Hmm, yeah.

But don't let your guard down, Obo-cchama

This Vilma lady's gotten pretty lively.

She won't continue like this. Vilma will definitely make her move!

"Something" you say~ You can't just jump in~

We can do something over there~

I said the performers have already been decided!

本部

大会本部

Sign: Meet Headquarters

Eh heh heh heh. but I'm kinda hungry right now

Hey! Naota here-

is no mean acrobat!

Just let us perform!

Yeah, they all are. .

He's so harsh, Naota.

大会本

Otaku-Woman Show

Presents

Le Cirque de Karakuri

KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

Translating and Scanlating: Hisa Rania

Cleaning: Judash137

All for the love of Fujita-Sensei!

Act 2

Nakamachi Circus in a Pinch!

Sign: Street Performer Meet

Sign: T-Shirts Now on Sale

The dolls are good to go!

The mike and music's set too.

Okay.

We've set up the stage.

Yep Yep

Me too, Lize-san!

It's been such a long time!

I feel so "waku waku", as you say in Japanese!

2

Let's do this!

Of course, Aniki! We're true performers!

This is going to be even better on concrete!

Karakuri Circus
からくりサーカス 11

パチ パチ パチ パチ

Hmm, what was I doing?

It's not like that... Jim.

Hoh-hoh!

Ha-ha!

Ah well, I'll buy you an-other.
Aw, Mama, I dropped my corndog.

You're right there, Papa~
Oh, we're pitiful, aren't we, Naota?

Naota, this is all because of your gambling addiction...
It's been close to two weeks. I'm hungry, Papa.
and we finally come to a place like this.
We ran from our debts and are sleeping in the great wet outdoors...

And when the rest of the troupe all found out about our embezzling... we went bankrupt.

While you were embezzling money to buy a condo and Benz for every new "mother" you started dating!

Ah! Papa, how could you say that!?

I don't want this any more.

ぽて

はーっ

Well, I haven't thought about until now, but...

What is it, Naota?

Hey, Papa...

ちょ

Really lonely~

Not being in a circus is...

What is it?!
Get down, Naota!

Huh?

All right, let's change.

What are you doing, Naota!?

Uwaah! There's Shiro-gane!
Th-that damned Nakamachi and his cohorts!!

Are you stupid? What do you think Shirogane, let alone Nakamachi, would think if they saw us like this!?
"What am I doing?" I'll ask Shirogane, who loves me, to lend us some money!

I'd rather die than let him see me like this.

Especially since he and I were rivals in the old days.

He'd surely do the same to us!!

When Nakamachi was in trouble, we made fun and kicked him while he was down!

All right, time to get started.

Shut up and get over here!

Yeah, but-

non French for "no"

I don't know what you're thinking, but if it's whether or not you'll get a chance at Obocchama, the answer is "non"*

I will not hesitate. Remember that well.

If you try anything, Arlequin will kill you in an instant.

I won't take my eyes off you for a moment.

All right.

Obocchama, I'll go throw out this trash.

.....

Kuh kuh, I'm your focus, even when you've taken all my knives?

That trash can is kind of close though.

You cannot drop your guard, Obo-ccha-ma.

Please be sure to keep other people or objects between you and that woman.

Um... all right.

Let's start the Nakamachi Circus!!

Well, there're a bunch of spectators now...

わい

わい

We'll do really well after all that nourishment this morning!

Lize, you bought that eel kabayaki and monkfish consomme that was under the table for us, right?

What happened with your speech? Yeah, Nori and I ate it.

Eat? Eat?

Did ユア イート でスカ？

Th-that...

huh!?

So.

Ha ha ha! Your stomach's still too delicate, eh?

W well, actually, that consommé I got it from a fishmonger I know

What's wrong, Lize?

I thought perhaps I'd feed it to my animals or some stray cats. It was old.

Uh-huh, uh-huh.

OH MY GOD!!!

Oh, Masaru, you didn't get any of it

No way! I didn't have any

She must have dropped it

You shouldn't have eaten it~

It expired in 1988...

It looks like

Oya-ssan ~

But then

We need a toilet!!

Please be careful of food poisoning in your household these days.

Yeah.

Well... they won't be back in a hurry.

I'm sorry! I'm so sorry!

What can we do? It's time to start...

That's what they get, Papa!!

All right! A huge setback for the Naka-machis!

I will cover for the Naka-machis, who have regretfully scattered,

with my high technique animal performance

You're the one who scattered them!

I was an animal tamer in a huge American circus after all!

Masaru-san, it's all right. I can do this!

T-that's right. Lize-san and Shirogane are still here...

Right.

Lize Masaru saaaaaa

I'm such a fan! You're so cute!

It's the girl who killed the tiger with her lion!!

Uwaah! I saw you on TV!!

I don't know who you are, but thank you!

Thank you! Thank you!

I think she's out of it too.

B-but Shirogane's still...

ぐいぐい

かくかく

If you could just hold it till the end~

Just till the end~

It broke just as I started my act~

But let go of me...

...well...if you've gotten lost, you should stay here...

Thank you. Thank you.

ぎゅー

Uwaaah! Mamaaaaa!!

This is terrible!

Aaaa!

ぱちん

ざわ

It must be over~

but they're not perform-ing.

What's up? I came here to see a traveling circus,

ざわ

Nothing they try to do will ever work out right!

The Nakamachi Circus are total losers!!

What're you gonna do, hmm?

Well, looks like everyone's gone, bouya...

ガシャ!!

Wh-?
I'm... gonna try.

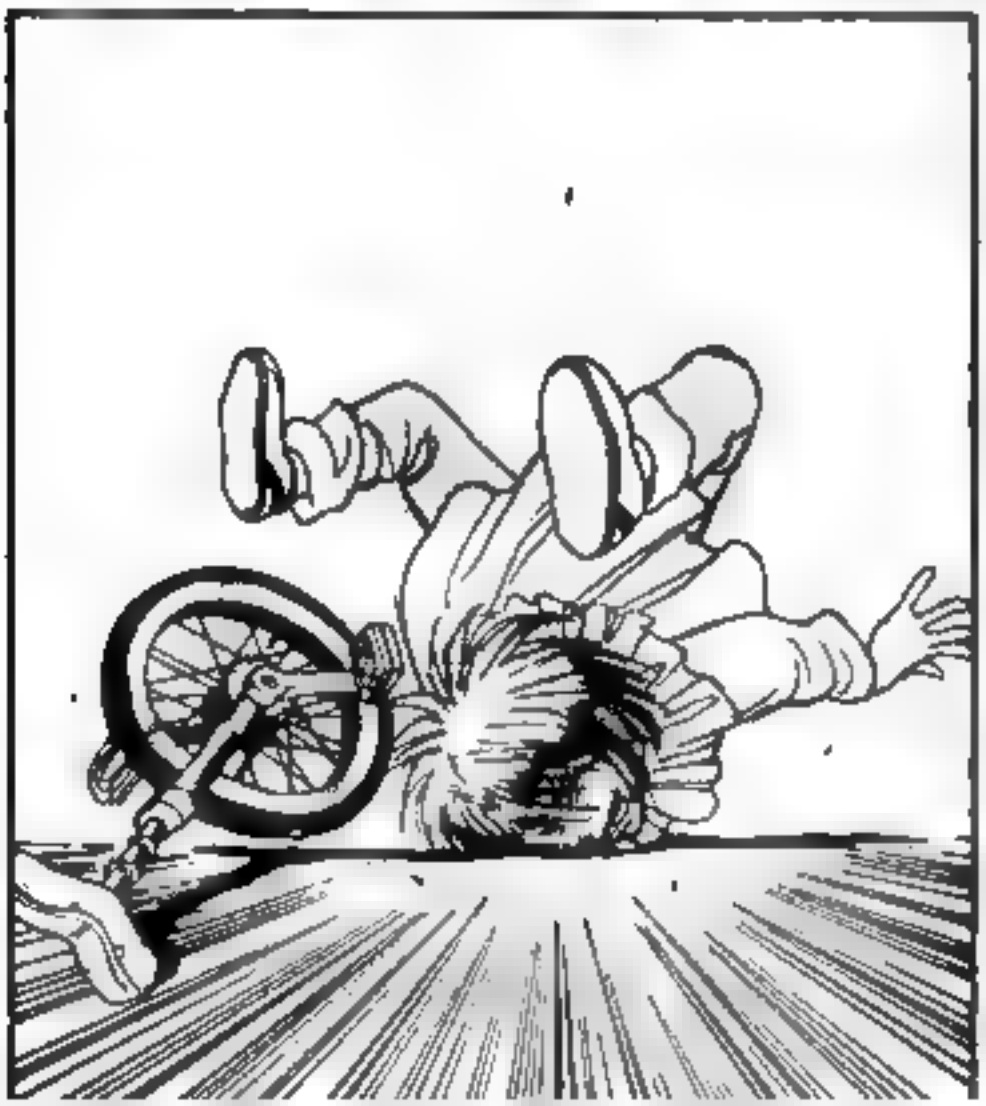
And now, the Nakamachi Circus!
S-seriously!? You're going on like that...

I've done a little practice.
I'm part of the Nakamachi Circus.

First up, unicycle riding.

Well now, let's see this.
What? There's a kid perform-ing?

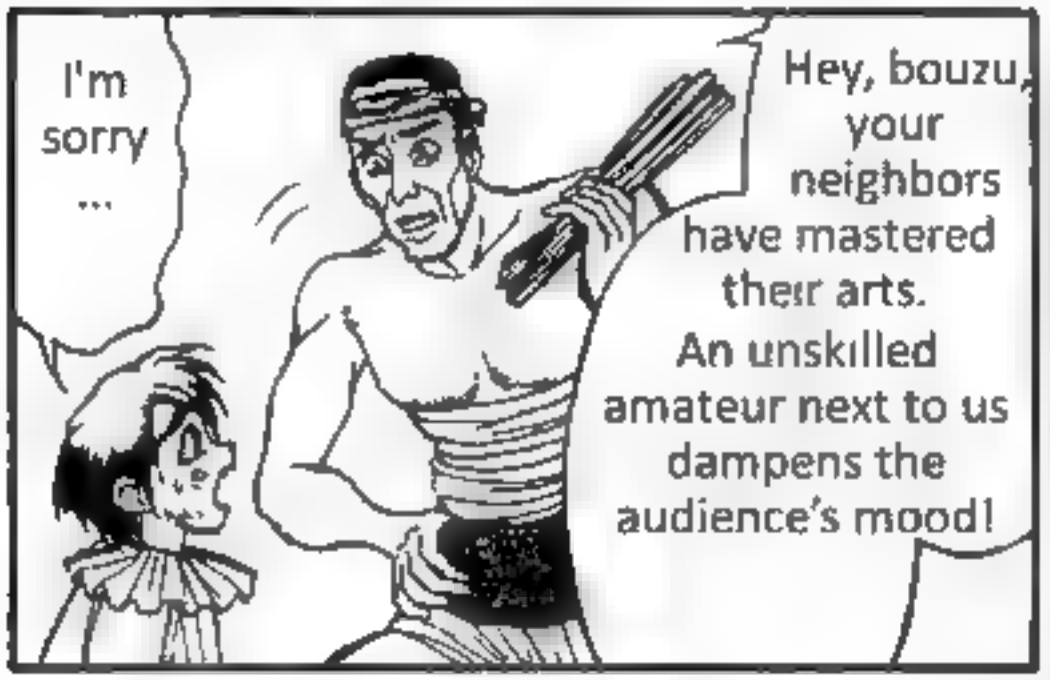
One more time ...
ガ ガ
ちゃ ちゃ
Eh heh heh ...



ばら
ばら
そろ
そろ
SPORTS

Where are the boy's parents?
That's just pitiful, don't you think?

Wow, and I had high hopes...
Let's just go...
He can't do it at all!


I'm sorry ...
Hey, bouzu, your neighbors have mastered their arts. An unskilled amateur next to us dampens the audience's mood!

Kid! There are acts we want them to see. That's why we come to a place like this.

I'm sorry ...
I'm sorry ...

Then, you can give joy to people with your art instead of being judged for it

You have to pile on the practice!

I will... get better.

I will...

I'm sorry.

.....

Don't take "art" like this so lightly!

Part of the Naka-machi Circus.

I am...

Kid, you're going to do it again!?

I'm all that's here. .

But for now,

ちゃ

Otaku-Woman Show

Presents

Le Cirque de Karakuri

KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

Translating and Scanlating: Hisa Rania

Cleaning: Judash137

All for the love of Fujita-Sensei!

But I'm part of the Naka-machi Circus!

I'm losing the audi-ence!

W-

Wait!

Act 3

A Brief Curtain Close

Ah!

Yeah, take it over there

Okay, let's move this stage to the side

Sorry, but you're not following the program we got from you.

We have to think about the flow of spectators

I'm with the Meet's operations staff

Oh, you're with the Nakamachi Circus?

What are you doing!? This is my this is the Nakamachi Circus' spot!!

2

Okay!

Sorry, it'll just be a little longer

Huh!?

Hey, that's enough! We're letting some other performers take over.

But I-

No..

I told you, bouzu,

the stage is only for people who practice incredibly hard every day.

Stop it!!
Stop!

Stand aside!

Arlequ-
Obo-
ccha-
ma!!

Everyone was looking forward to this!!

V-
Vilma-
san?

Knife-
Throwing!

Ladies
and
Gentle-
men,

刃物
ナイフ

Wah!!

And how
about a
little fancy
footwork!

"Boy-Twirling" every-one!

But... why...

Ojisans! You guys were with the Straw Circus!

I'm the former dan-chou!

And I'm not and ojisan! It's Naota, bouzu!

ざわ

Mama! That looks cool!

That circus is perform-ing.

Hey, look!

ざわ

Well ...

Yeah?

Y-yes.

Boy, you know these guys?

I'm worried about the circus!

ドドド

Hurry up, you rascals!!

Yeah~

I'm sure Lize and Shirogane are holding it together~

どどど

Don't yell, Hiro~ It's upsett-ing my stomach ~

What a time for digestive trouble!!

STEP BACK!

HO

Wha !?

Sorry! Please come see the Naka-machi Circus!

don't know how to thank you

Thank you! Thank you so much

B-b-b-but even alone, Shirogane can probably

Y-y-y-yeah, sure!

Nakamachi-san, all these people who saw me on TV came and-

Lize! What are you doing here!?

-is just Shiro-gane and Masaru ?

So, now, the Circus-

The circus is-

Then... then...

Even Shirogane !?

-just Masaru!

Masaru !!

Excuse me please!

Excuse me!

What'll we do! What'll we do!

T-this is bad!

'Round and 'round!

What do you think of his footwork, everyone?

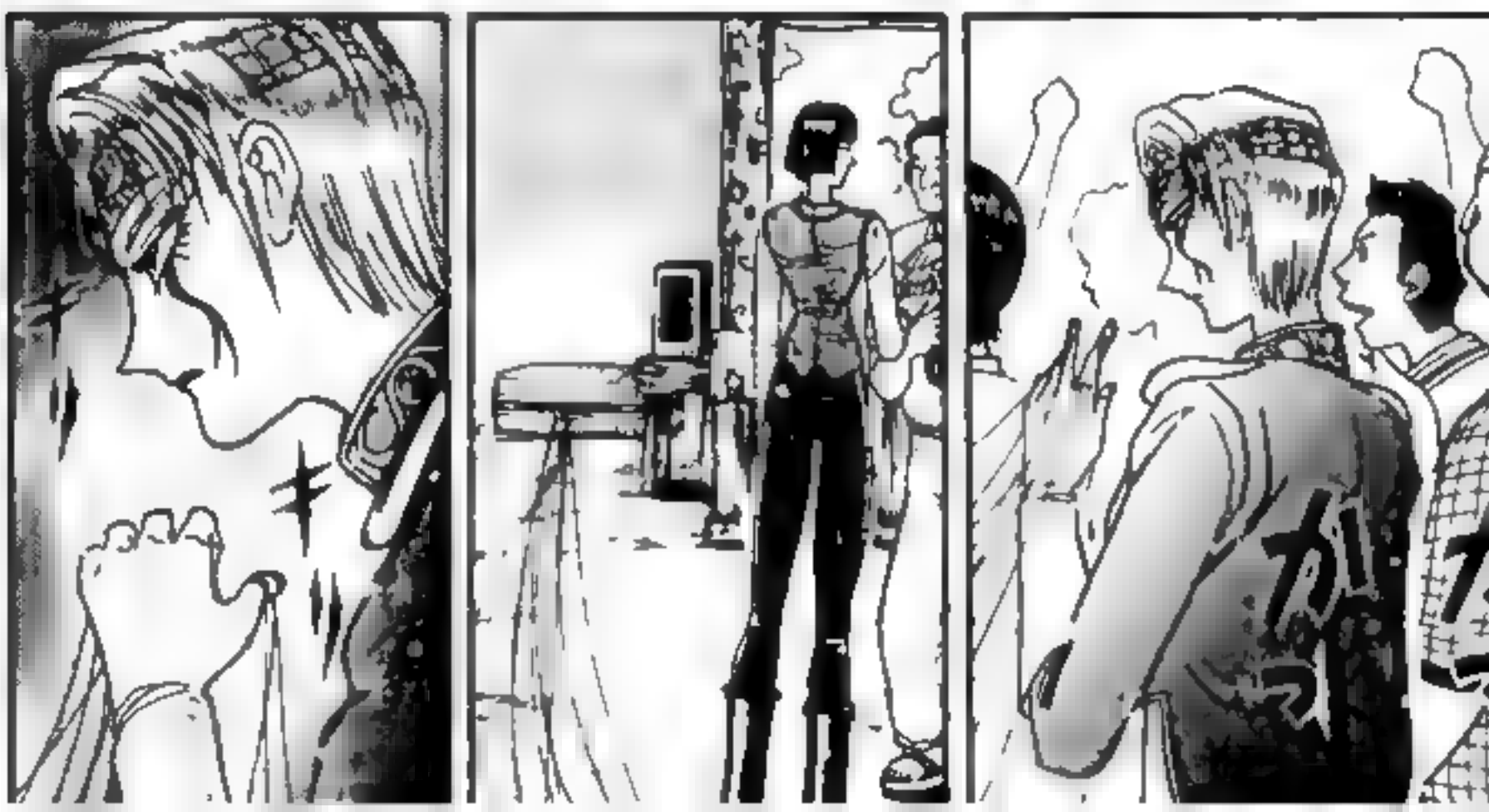
Now, now, can they really-

succeed in this feat!?

PARADISE

And what about Vilma-san!?
What are they doing here!?
Naotal And Mitsuushi!

so, as much as possible, show your appreciation in the much lighter bill form
The performers are tired out,
Thank you! Thank you!
Now, gracious watchers, please show your appreciation!



What do you mean, 'crap'?

What kinda crap are you up to?

Hey, Mitsuushi, what are you doing here!?

Every one-

That was .

a fun show. .

Well.

You've got quite the knack for announcing, yourself.

Not bad, Knife-Throwing Neechan.

You did a fine job

.....

Who would do such a thing to a kid they were trying to train properly!?

We were showing the kid here what a circus looks like!

Quit all your wailing, Naka-machi!

Um... ha ha. Sorry.

Your falling off the unicycle was all a set up, huh? You should have said so.

What happened with Masaru?

Huh?

Part of the Naka machi Circus. .

But... I'm just...

If Vilma-san and the Mitsuushis hadn't come... I couldn't have done anything.

Masaru... you did that?

So, he's just a little guy, but he jumped in to keep them from tearing down the stage.

What a kid!

Good job.

cough *cough*

W-well . Masaru,

So, now...

let us into your circus.

Yes, yes! We couldn't just watch him struggle!

Yeah, thanks

"Masaru"? The boy's innocence struck my heart.

Thank you!!

Kuh kuh... well, it's fine if you don't believe me...

.....

And why didn't you?

Before, when you were throwing knives, I was close to killing you.

Huh?

.....

My honey, will you ask Nakamachi a favor for me?

!?

So

But I remembered something better than killing people

That day, there were three new candidate for enrollment

Hey, are you the Chairman?

T-thank you, Ojisan.

Bouzu, if you train, you'll become a very skilled artist

But the decision was really already made

You've got some great performers here.

ぶらりサーカス

Le Cirque de Kurikuri

One-Woman Show Peasants

Le Cirque de Karakuri

KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

Translating and Scanlating: Hisa Rania

Cleaning: Judash137

All for the love of Fujita-Sensei!

Karakuri~ Silver Smoke

Act 1

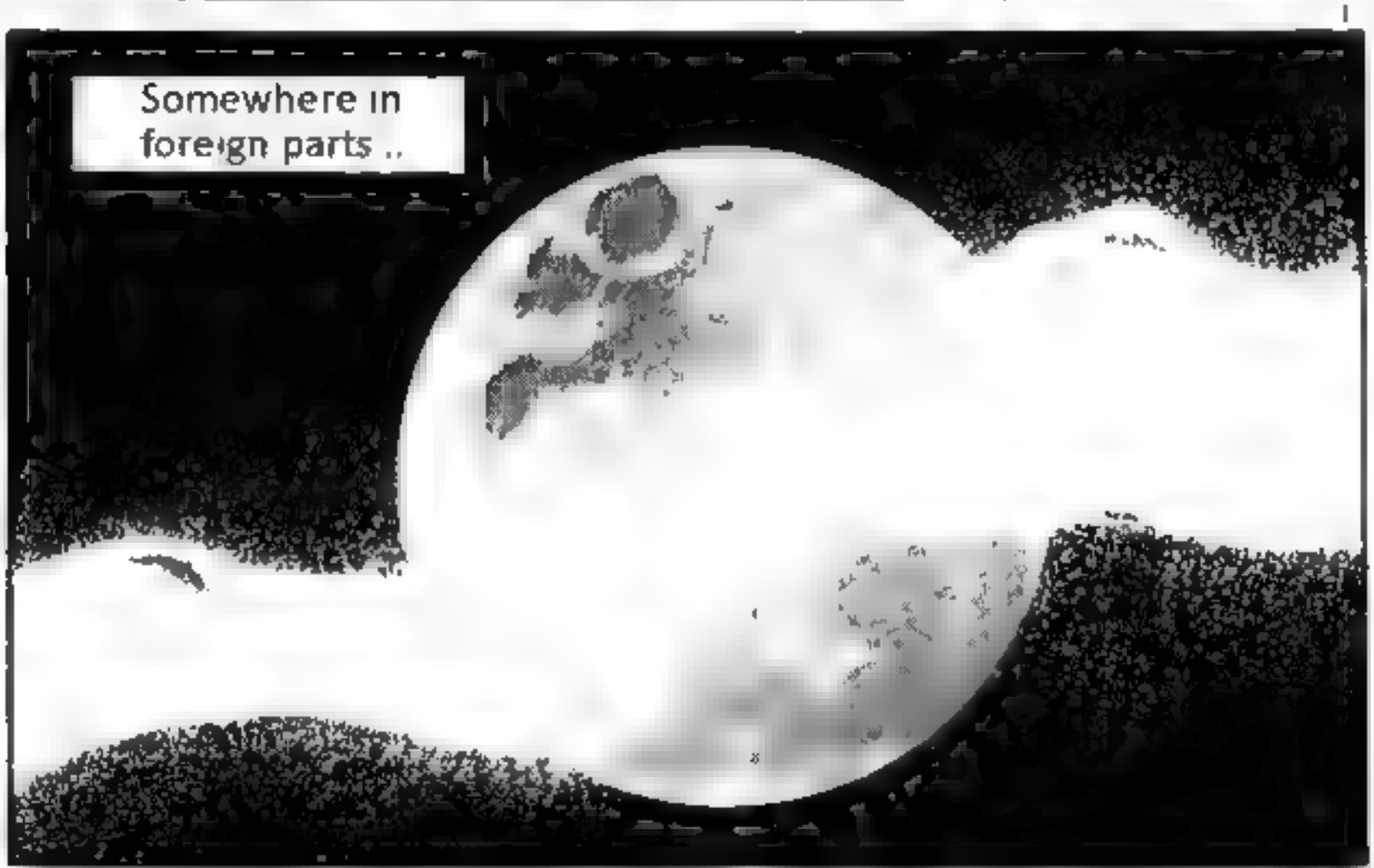
The Curtain Rises

からくり～銀の煙（ぎんのけむり）

第1幕

開幕（かいまく）ベル

ヒヨオオ



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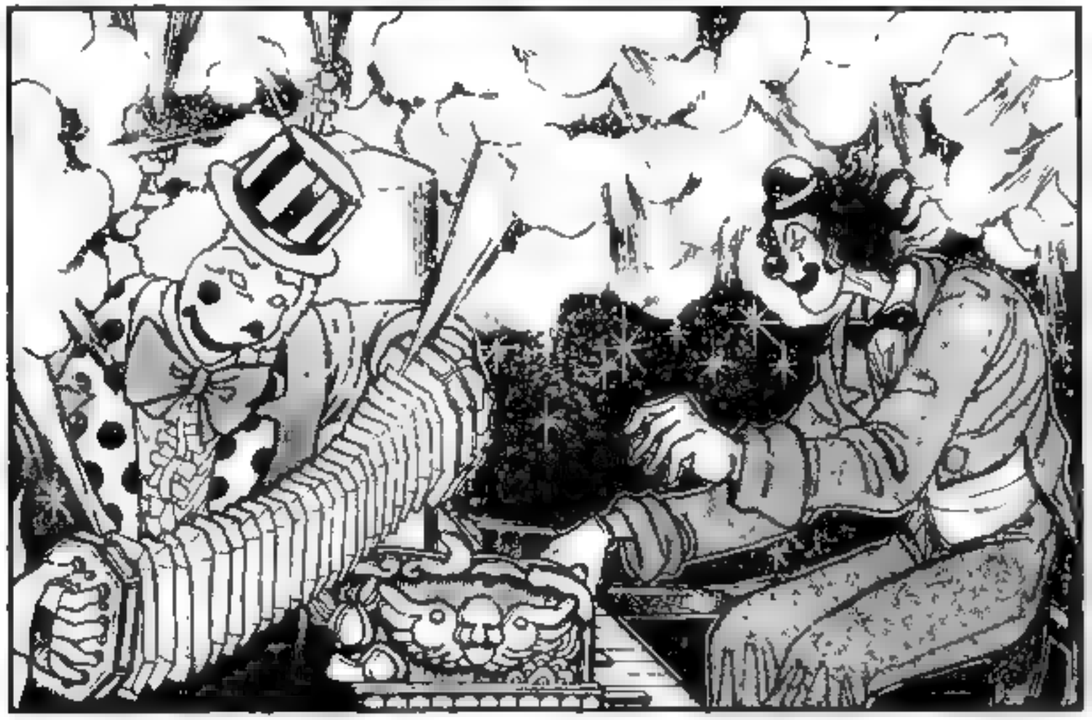
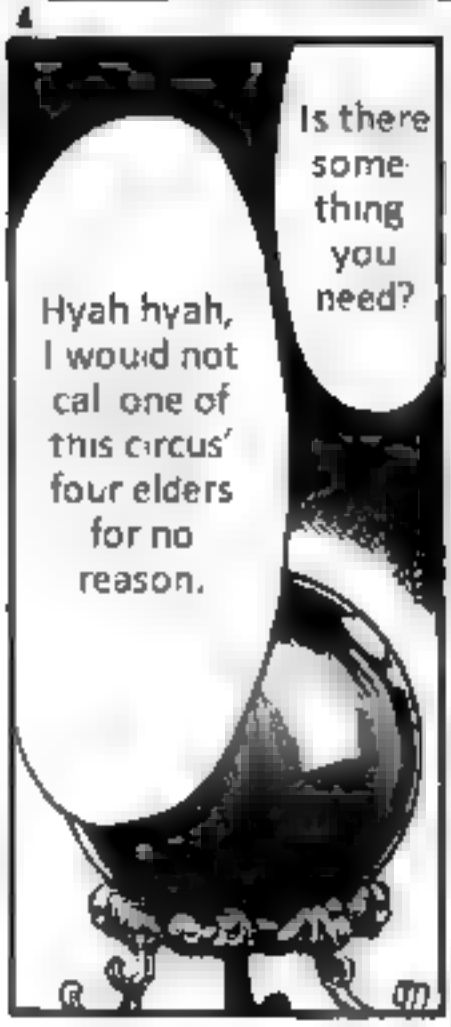


ガチャ


Hyah hyah, I would not cal one of this circus' four elders for no reason.
Is there some-thing you need?

It is indeed a nice night for Francine-sama
Pantalone

Tonight is another beautiful night
For Franc ne-sama,

I,
Almendra
the Seer,
understand
my place.

Kuh
kuh
kuh
kuh.

I see.
I under-
stand,
Almen-
dra.

North
east*.

I have
divined
the next
direction
for our
Midnight
Circus.

*North east is considered an unlucky direction in Japan.

No,
Pantalone
I was thinking
about how you
are always trying
to make Francine-
sama smile

Is some-
thing
amusing?

Is it
my
pose?

And, because of this, you are all that is keeping that childless old half blind human woman alive...hyah hyah!

Yes. . it would seem so

I was laughing that the Automata Circus decides its destination by divination.

The puppet-destroying shirogane surely have no idea.

Fuhn, this has strayed from the subject of making Francine-sama smile

Perhaps. but I am used to it

Is it strange that we Automata decide our movements by diving?

We've traveled 'round and 'round the world, Pantalone

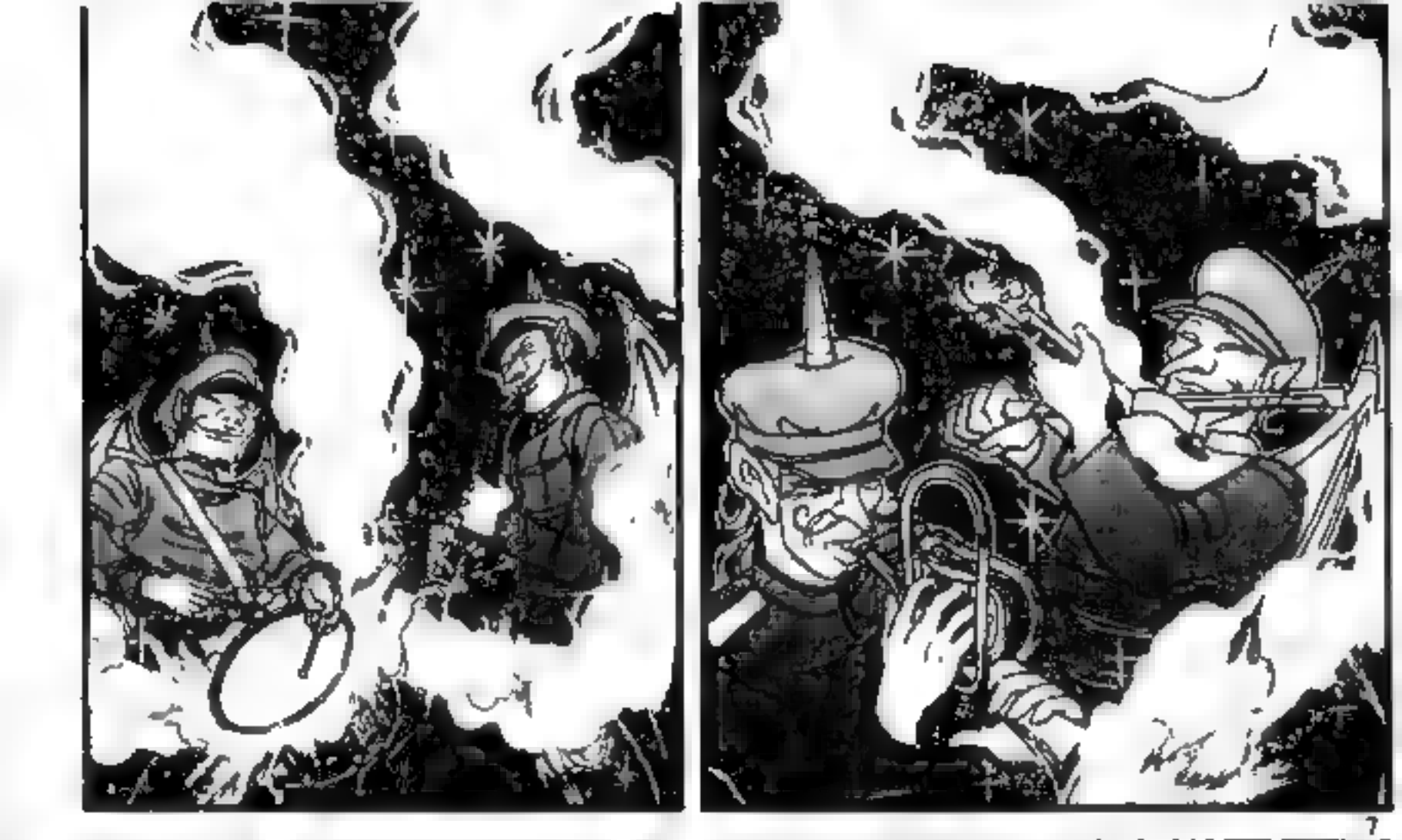
It's been 70 years now.

All humanity will soon grow still.

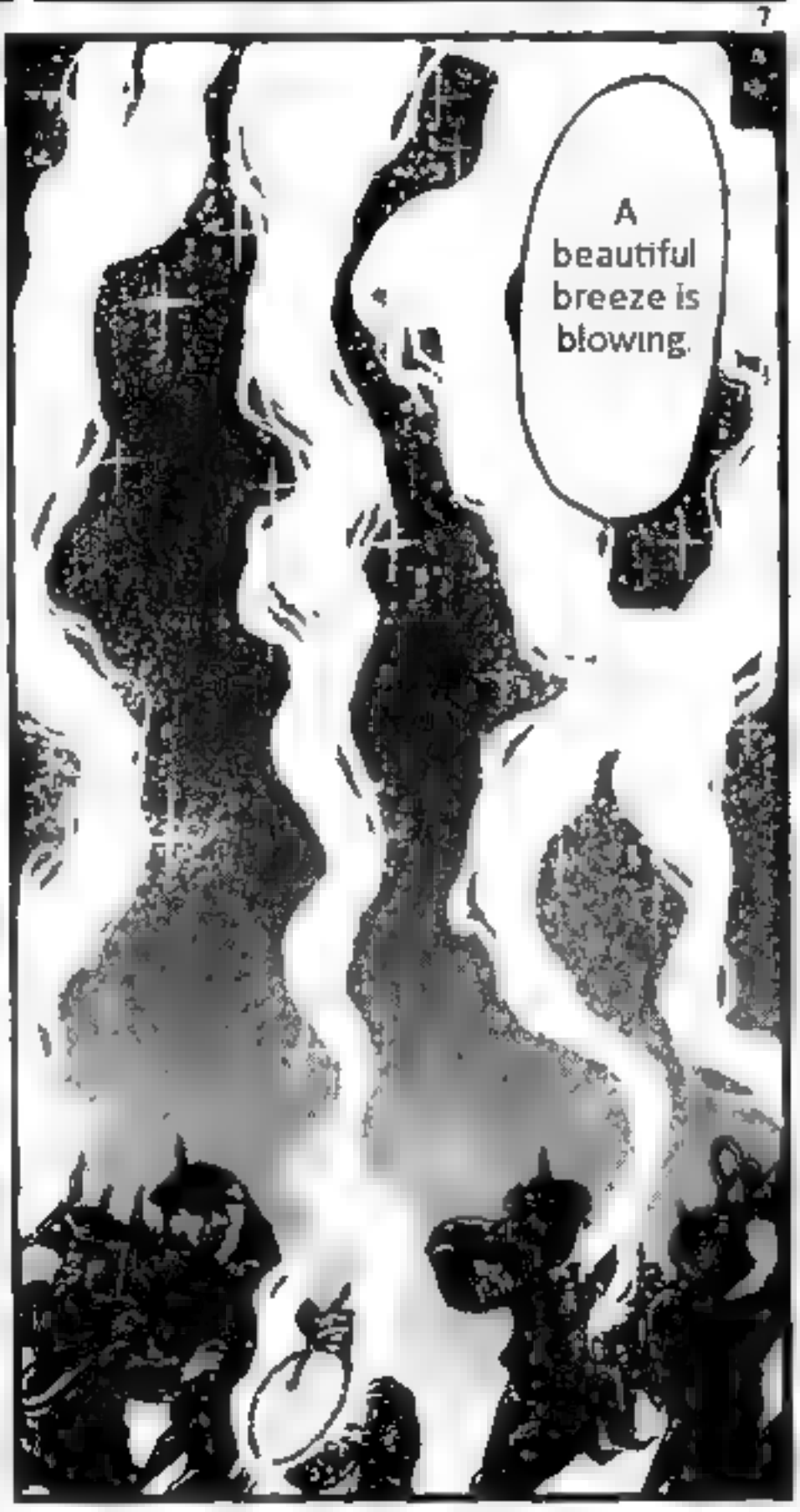
Yes.

But the end of this journey is drawing near

It was fun to be travelers



Riding on this breeze, the Zonapha Syndrome will reach every corner of this country


A beautiful breeze is blowing.

Besides, old Almendra does not know the location of the one with the "Soft Stone", which is the key to making Francine-sama smile
I am sorry .

I am old and not long for this world, but thank you.

Even should our travels end, you should live on, Almendra.

We Automata will have the same heart as Francine-

And when we find it,

and the Aqua Vitae we create is inside us,

It's all right

The Zonopha Syndrome is to find the human with the Soft Stone

Go now

Go now.

Uh fuh fuh

And deliver the gift of illness to human-ity.

TTT

Bugs

My beloved-

Colum-bine's Insects!

Uh fuh fuh

Arlequino.

It's ironic when you think of Francine-sama.

"The Soft Stone is with the one with the sweet smile"?

If it weren't for all the humans skittering all about, she would look quite nice, a light shining in the darkness.

The signs I've long spoken of are still coming.

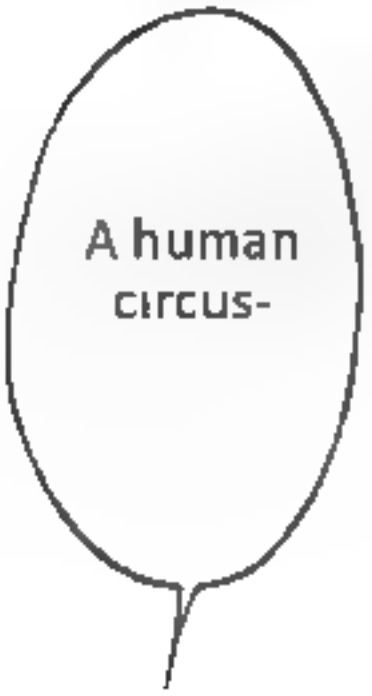
Very good.

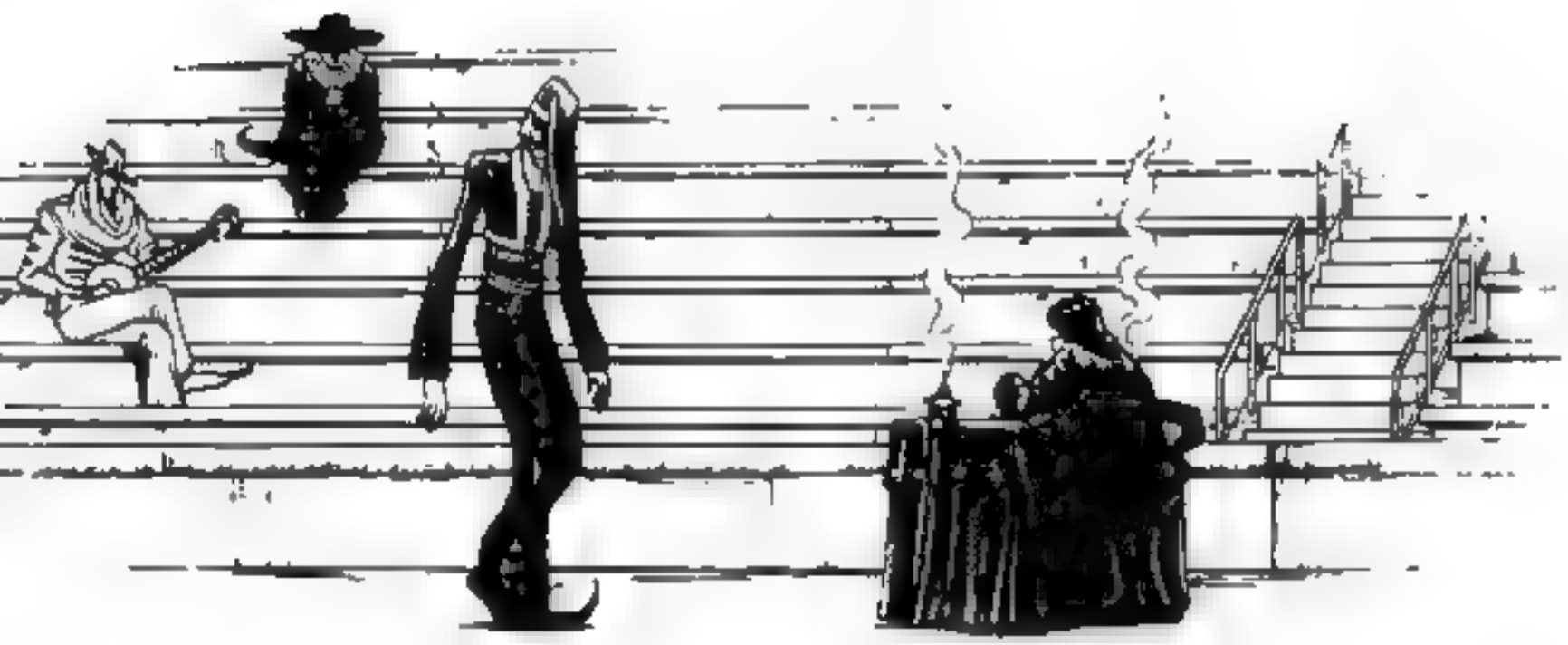
You're going too, Dottore?

.....
Almendra, it is very difficult to think such a thing.
Fuhn, again with this prediction, Almendra?

However many times I divine it, it comes out the same.
But, dear puppets,

-will bring disaster upon us.


A human circus-



-a human circus, puppets.

Beware-

Japan

Shiro-ganel

Shi-

That's not it..

I'm so sorry. It must be because my body temperature is so low-

Shirogane!

I can't sleep if you don't let go of me!

Hm?

But, Vilma .. Vilma-san saved me at the Street Performer Meet

But Vilma is sleeping right here

You never know when she might attack you.

That's what she said

Her brother . died of the Zonapha Syndrome.

I know that she threw knives at you seriously, but.

You needn't worry about me.. It's just that she is a professional hit man

You're not a puppet.

Why are you apologizing? Not smiling?

Whee

Smile or I'll kick your butt!

Don't cry, Masaru!

Smile!

Wheeze

Wheeze

Yes..

Obocchama.

We need to find a cure...

for the Zonapha Syndrome.

ヒュウウウ

16

Z.O.N.A.P.H.A
SPECIAL
MEDICAL TREATMENT
WARD

カーン

カッーン

コーン

ガーン

カーン

カーン

The Soft Stone .. can wait

Damned Auto-mata!

We shirogane must find the Soft Stone and destroy the Automata.

This is the Zonapha Syn-drome

Damned Automata..

I'll destroy you all!!!

One-Woman Show Peasants

Le Cirque de Karakuri

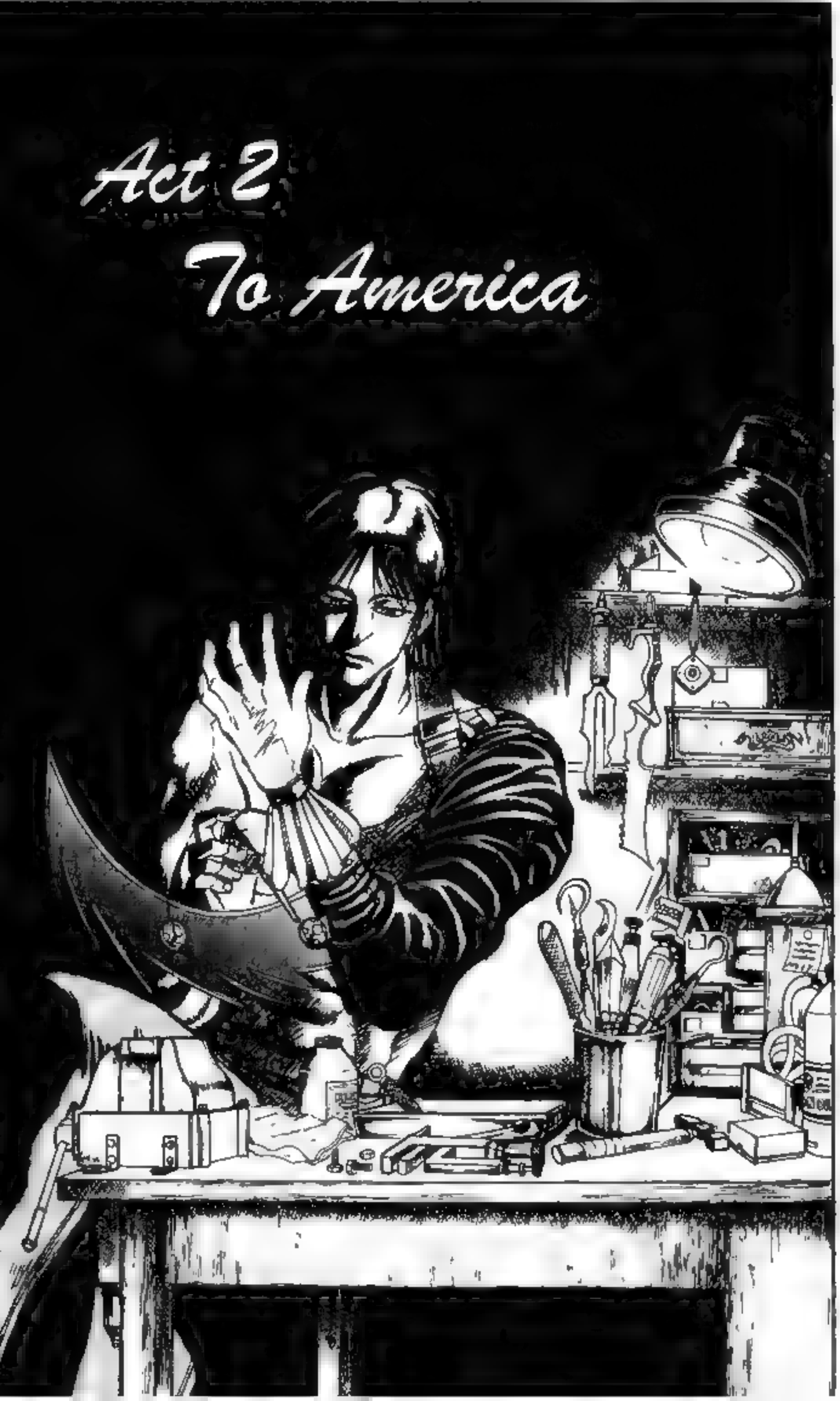
KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

Translating and Scanlating: Hisa Rania

Cleaning: Judash137

All for the love of Fujita-Sensei!

Act 2
To America



2

Kuh!

You can't steal my meal!

3

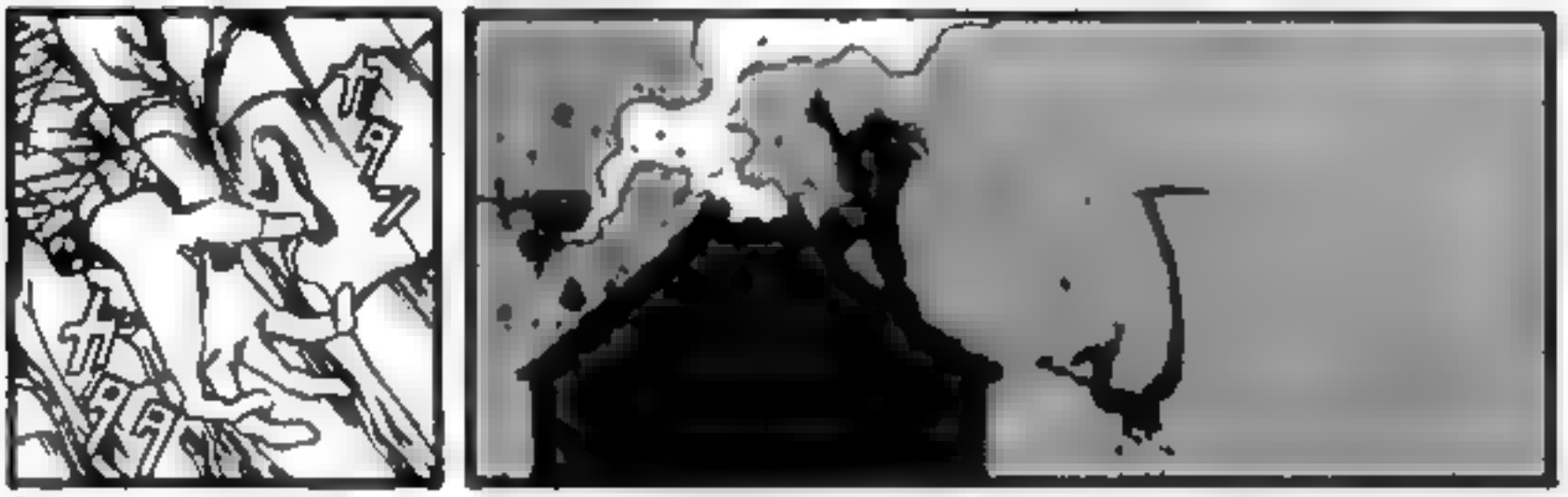
Shut up! You come take him then!

He's not a tough oppo-nent!

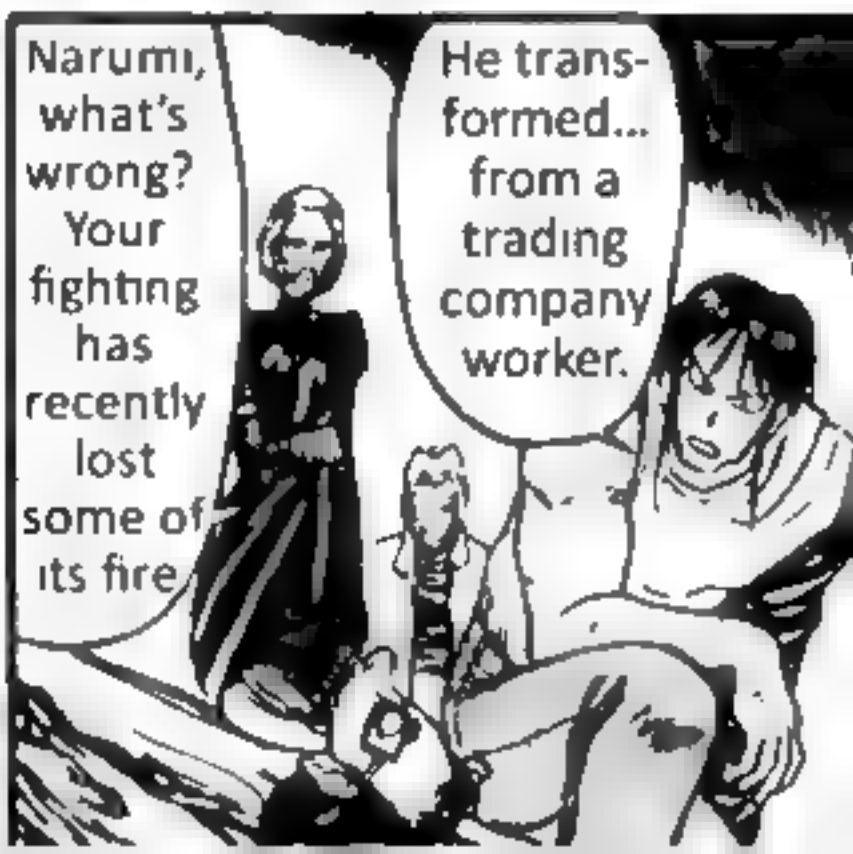
What's wrong, Narumi?

Keh keh! DIE!

Here goes-!!



It's unbelievable that you aren't used to fighting Automata yet.
We left it to you this time because there was only one of them. If it took you any longer, I'd have had to bring out Olympia.


Narumi, what's wrong? Your fighting has recently lost some of its fire.
He transformed... from a trading company worker.

For a man who only knows about fighting, he can't possibly not be used to it

Ha ha ha, exactly.

Ho ho ho, unbelievable. He's already fought twelve of them, all over the place.

See!

I wanna be strong

.....

The job you want or what you want to do. Like that.

Huh?

My dream?

Well, what was it you said your dream was?

What? What do you mean "who only knows about fighting"?

.....

So, what good will you be if you can't fight well?

As I said, there's only fighting in your head.

Well, yeah, but..

It's been a month since the trouble with Princess Ellie... I've been traveling with you two to find the human being with the Soft Stone inside them

Is what right?

But..

But.. is this really right?

And every where we go, we fight Automata.

Across Europe. Spain here was our seventh stop.

It's eerie

I'm shocked

So many human beings, from bankers to homeless, transforming into Automata

Should we really be travelling around all these countries, killing them, looking for the Soft Stone?

But I've been thinking.

Their life force comes from other people's blood.

I don't have a problem destroying them

That may be so

Well .

This mission is the meaning behind the existence of the shirogane, our mission

It is right, Narumi.

Yes, a lot of time has been spent laying the groundwork for shirogane activities

You'll call and the police'll come and take care of this businessman's remains, all in secret

So we'll go on destroying the puppets.

We kill them . and kill them..

but there's no end to them

I understand that shirogane have a lot of clout in many different countries- that there are more than just you guys.

They fight the Automata as well, right?

.....

. I am 200 years old. Guy is 50. And we are still destroyng puppets.

In our battle against the ageless Automata,

time is only slightly on our side

Having drunk Aqua Vitae made from a Soft Stone, we only age a single year for every five that go by.

There is no end to our battle

Narumi, listen well

Under-stood. We're on our way

ピピピ

Lucille here

ピ

Narumi, you were just saying you haven't met other shirogane. You're about to.

There were flyers for a certain circus left in the town.

Last month, a town was destroyed by the Zonapha Syndrome in a single night..

MIDNIGHT CIRCUS

What's next, Lucille?

Huh?

having the Soft Stone.

It appears that they heard something about someone there-

Where?

The Midnight Circus!

"A certain circus"? The Automata HQ-

Greentown, Illinois

The U.S.

ヒョオオ

Welcome GREENTOWN

コオオオ

11

ヒョオオ

ヒョオオ

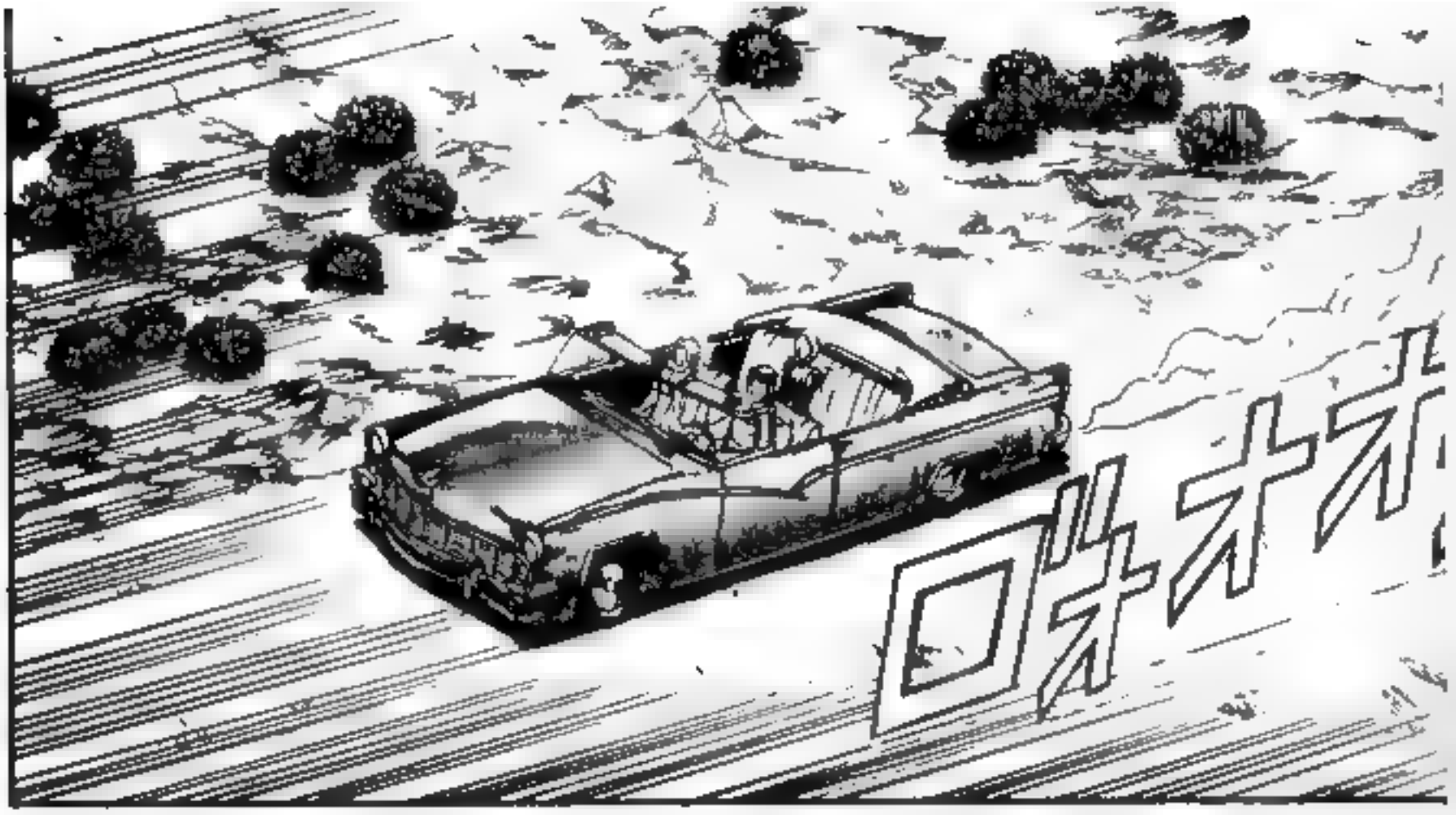
コオオオオ

10

By the time the military medical corps arrived, every one of the 9000 residents, from newborns to an 82-year-old,

had contracted the Zonapha Syndrome.

The strange phenomenon in this town was discovered and reported on the morning of August 5th, by a truck driver making a pit stop here.



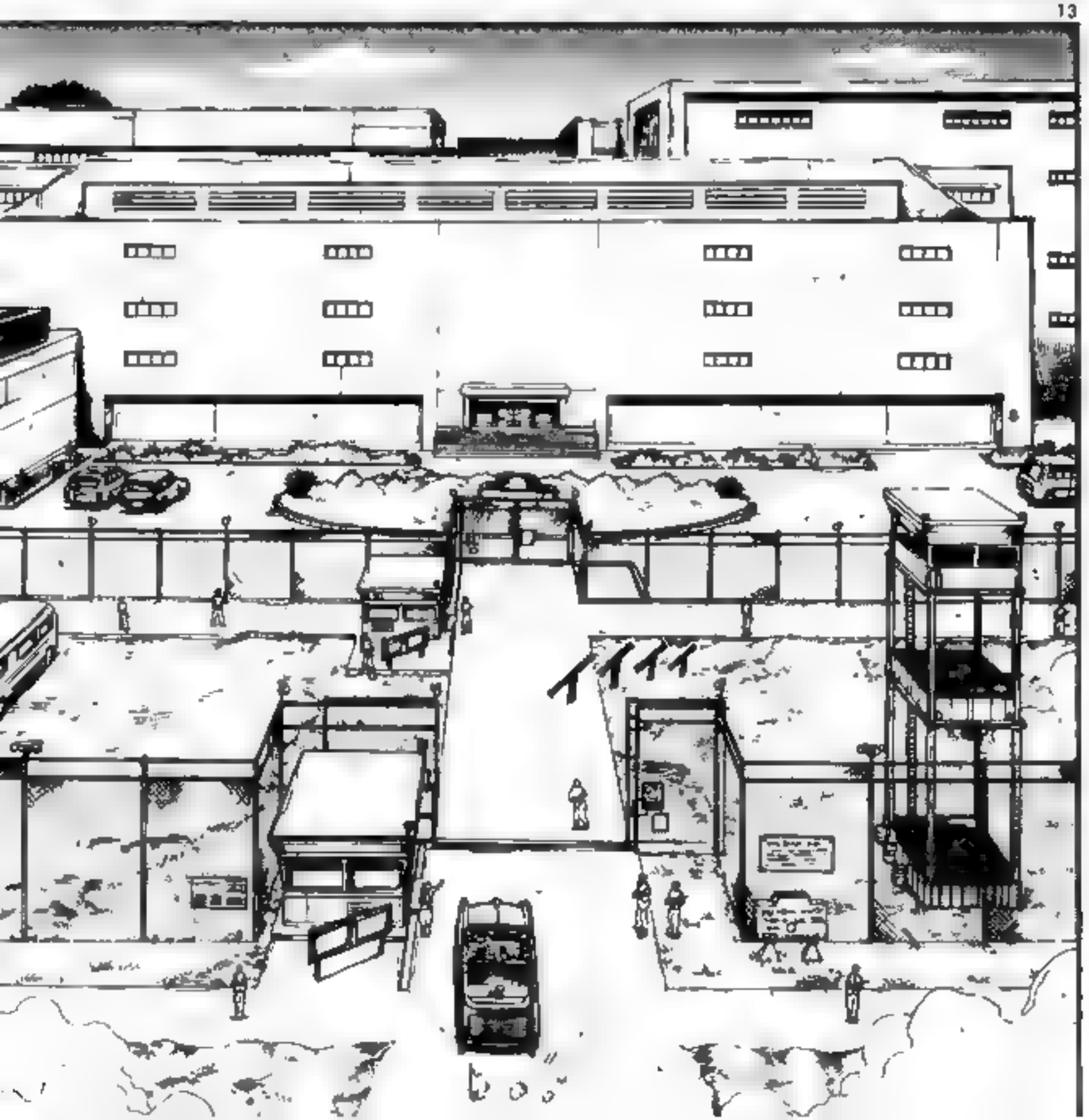
There's a private institution here in Illinois for the treatment of patients with the Zonapha Syndrome.
The victims of that city were admitted there
Where are we headed from here, Guy?
And what about the shirogane here, Lucille?

I have a bad feeling about this.
The Zonapha Syn-drome.
I had it before...

We're going there to communicate with the shirogane there, ask about the Soft Stone and meet with eye-witnesses to the attack.
That sums it up

Uh, yeah, well
What're you saying? So do II
As do I

RAY
STATE
PLAGUE
LABORATORY



Society would surely collapse into panic and religious mania

A speed and infection rate that can destroy a whole town..
its causes as yet unknown.
If it were known there was an outbreak inside the country, it would all be over

The Zonapha Syndrome is highly classified.

Is this a prison?

Indeed

Well, it's just a matter of time we can't hide it forever

.....

Foolish man! That's our job!!

I can't go up to people suffering from a disease and ask them- "Hey, you hear anything about a 'Soft Stone'?"!!

I can't do this. You guys go on.

H-

Hey!

What are you talking about, Narumi?

You don't know when to give up, Narumi!

L-lemme go!

Get inside this minute!!

Text: Ah hah hah hah ha!

Huh?

わあ あ あ

These children are the victims of the Zonapha Syndrome that you'll be in charge of.

With so many children to talk to, we have to split them into groups
What's going on? What's with all the kids?

Can you.... do it again?

That face you made.. was really funny!

Ojichan...

トコトコ

Really? Like...like this?

ドヒャ

Heh heh heh heh...

Heh heh...

Well, how nice that such a funny man has come to us.

I've heard from your compatriot that you're here to get some clues from the eye-witnesses.

Howdy.

Nice to meet you. I'm Head Researcher Leif Bernhardt.

-after the plane arrived.

It should only have taken you 52 minutes to get here-

Is this guy a shiroganel?

Com-patriot?

Yes, that's correct, doctor.

You're late, Sensei. Guy.

ざわ……

One-Woman Show

Presents

Translating and Scanlating: Hisa Rania

Cleaning: Judash137

All for the love of Fujita-Sensei!